





## Hunger-striking Palestinian woman taken to Israeli prison hospital

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — A Palestinian woman prisoner was moved Friday to a hospital in "dangerous condition" after 17 days of hunger strike to demand her release, a prisoners' rights group said.

Itaf Ayyan, 35, "was taken from Telmnd prison to the Ramle military hospital today for treatment," said Issa Qaraqeh, head of the Prisoners' Club rights group in the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

"She is in a dangerous condition because of her hunger strike," Mr. Qaraqeh told Agence France Presse.

Ayyan, an Islamic Jihad member, has been on a hunger strike since she was arrested on Oct. 21 outside Bethlehem amid a general crackdown by the Israeli army against Islamists launched in August.

She has since been held without charges under Israel's administrative detention policies, Mr. Qaraqeh said.

Meanwhile, 20 local political figures, including members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, launched a two-day hunger strike in solidarity with Ayyan while they held a sit-in in a tent in front of Bethlehem's Red Cross headquarters.

At the same time, several

hundred students held a demonstration at Bethlehem University demanding Israeli release of Palestinians held in its prisons. The students knocked over two mock prison cells and burned Israeli flags.

A number of solidarity hunger strikes and similar demonstrations are planned for the next two weeks throughout the West Bank, Mr. Qaraqeh said.

Israel committed in interim peace accords with the self-rule authority signed in 1995 to release its Palestinian prisoners. It currently holds nearly 4,000 prisoners.

A total 880 of those are held without charge in administrative detention, nearly two thirds of them arrested in the wide crackdown launched by Israel after a pair of Jerusalem bombings in the summer, according to the Prisoners' Club.

In February, Israel released 30 Palestinian women prisoners in a deal reached between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian National Authority.

Ayyan was among those women prisoners, as was another woman, Nadia Dheeb Haddad, who was also re-arrested in late October.



Palestinian students from Bethlehem University perform their interpretation of how Israeli jailors abuse Palestinian prisoners on Friday. Hundreds of students gathered to watch the play which included the 'beating of prisoners' and the symbolic burning of Israeli flags (Reuters photo)

## EU should enhance role in Mideast peace — Austria

DAMASCUS (R) — Austrian Defence Minister Werner Fasslabend said the European Union (EU) should strengthen its role in the Arab-Israeli peace process because Europe and the Middle East share the same security concerns.

"The EU engagement should be strengthened in the future," Mr. Fasslabend told Reuters late on Thursday after talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa and Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas.

"Europe and the Middle East are neighbours and both have the same security problem and should cooperate to achieve peace in the region," he said.

Mr. Fasslabend said the Syrian officials believed there would be no peace unless Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted to return the Golan Heights, occupied by the Jewish state since the 1967 Mideast war, in return for peace.

"We talked about the Middle East security issues and they made clear that there won't be real peace as long as Netanyahu was still at his political line of confrontation," he said.

The Syrian politicians also underlined that it

would be necessary for the United States to put pressure on Israel, otherwise there would be no development in the peace process."

Mr. Fasslabend is scheduled to visit the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) stationed in the Golan. The force which serves as a buffer between Syria and Israel includes around 400 Austrian soldiers.

Slovakia is considering joining the forces within the Austrian contingent but the issue should be approved by the Slovakian parliament first, he said.

## Egyptian president on official visit to Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Bahrain from Oman Friday for an official visit at the invitation of Emir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa. The official news agency GNA reported. The talks between the two countries will focus on "ways to relaunch the Middle East peace process and the prospects for bilateral cooperation in various fields," the news agency said.

Mr. Mubarak is accompanied by Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzouri and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

In Oman, the Egyptian president met Sultan Qaboos Wednesday, at Salalah in the southwestern province of Dhofar. They discussed the "efforts

deployed by the international community to give a new impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, as well as on bilateral cooperation," an Egyptian diplomat told Agence France Presse.

President Mubarak is on his way back from a summit of the G-15 states in Kuala Lumpur. The G-15 was set up in 1989 as a counterweight to the influence of the powerful G-7 industrialised nations. During a stopover in Abu Dhabi on his way to Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Mubarak said he saw "no point to the Doha economic conference [for the Middle East and North Africa] because of the current Israeli government's failure to respect the agreements reached" with the Arabs.

## Japan looking for better ties with S. Arabia

TOKYO (AFP) — A brief 24-hour visit by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to Saudi Arabia — Japan's second largest petroleum provider — is not without significance as Tokyo reaches out to diversify its supply.

The trip to Riyadh by Mr. Hashimoto on Saturday at the invitation of Saudi King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz bears witness to Tokyo's priority in developing better ties at a time when the two countries are due to renegotiate an oil contract that expires in 2000.

Japan's leading petroleum firm, Arabian Oil Co., has a concession at Khafji in the neutral zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and has controlled it since 1960.

Saudi Arabia supplies 20 per cent of Japan's oil consumption and the company must secure future rights within the three years to the expiration of its contract. "Renewing these rights has a major impact on the security of energy supply for Japan," the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper recently quoted an unidentified high-ranking official as saying.

However, a Foreign Ministry official said, "I do not think it will be one of the main issues which will be discussed," noting that contract talks are carried out directly between the company and Saudi authorities.

There are no businessmen in Mr. Hashimoto's delegation.

## Opposition presses Yemeni government to reverse Qatar conference decision

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen's Islamist opposition urged the government to reverse its decision, to attend the Doha economic conference because of Israel's participation, newspapers here reported Friday.

The Islah Party "deplores the fact that many Arab

countries have given in to American pressure and decided to take part in this capitulationist conference," a statement carried by the papers said.

Yemeni President Abdullah Saleh announced that his country would take part in the Doha conference during

an official visit to Amman Oct. 27. Apart from Yemen, only the host, Qatar, and Jordan have said they will definitely attend the Middle East and North Africa economic conference, planned for Nov. 16-18.

But President Saleh added that the size and seniority of

the delegation Yemen would send to the conference would depend on having "an Arab consensus for the meeting."

The Islah "urges the Yemeni leadership not to take part in this forum," the party's statement said.

But it added that its position "should in no way be

seen as being directed at fraternal Qatar or as a sign of ingratitude for its positions towards Yemen."

Yemen decided to take part in the Doha conference to reward Qatar for its support against a secession attempt in 1994, an official daily said last week.

"We are opposed to the

holding of this capitulationist conference. Its economic dimension is merely a cover at a time when the government of the Zionist enemy is terrorising the Palestinian people and defying international resolutions," the Islah statement said.

The Islah Party formed part

of a coalition with ruling General People's Congress until the formation of a new government after elections in April. U.S. envoy Martin Indyk toured regional states, including Yemen and the Gulf states, this week to try and persuade them to attend the Doha conference.

## Iranian FM in Syria as part of Arab tour

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi left here Friday for Syria as part of a tour which will also take him to all Gulf Arab states, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported.

Mr. Kharazi told IRNA before departing that he was carrying a message of "friendship and good will" from President Mohammad Khatami to all the Arab leaders of the neighbouring Arab states.

"We hope for a new condition in relations between Iran and the Arab coun-

tries of the region," he said. "Strengthening ties and boosting cooperation with the Muslim countries of the region is a top priority of our foreign policy."

He said the trip was important in light of the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran in December.

"We see a clear horizon for future cooperation among Muslim countries," Mr. Kharazi said.

Iran's new government has several times in recent months shown a desire to

strengthen relations with Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

Tehran and Riyadh recently strengthened cooperation within such international groupings as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the OIC.

Tehran and Riyadh have had tense relations since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, and the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca has often led to frictions between them.

In Damascus, Mr. Kharazi is expected to hold talks with Syrian

counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa on bilateral relations and the upcoming OIC summit. Syria is Iran's closest ally in the Middle East. The two foreign ministers will also discuss developments to the Israeli-Arab peace process and the situation in south Lebanon.

The Syrian ambassador in Iran, Ahmad Al Hassan, told IRNA that the two countries would seek cooperation with respect to recent developments in the region.

## Italian president visits south Lebanon

NAQOURA (R) — Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro drove deep into Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon on Friday after telling the Lebanese parliament he backed the country's full independence.

At the coastal town of Naqoura, four kilometres north of the Israeli border, President Scalfaro inspected the 52-strong Italian air wing, part of the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

Earlier on Friday the Italian president told Lebanon's parliament his country fully supported Beirut's demand for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the self-declared occu-

pation zone as ordered by U.N. Security Council Resolution 425.

"United Nations Resolution 425 must be respected, and Israel withdraw from occupied Lebanese land," Mr. Scalfaro said, speaking in Italian while members followed texts translated into Arabic and French.

Syria and Lebanon link any progress in Middle East peace negotiations to an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Mideast war, and south Lebanon. Parts of south Lebanon have been continuously held by Israeli troops since 1978.

"Your visit to the Lebanese parliament and to south Lebanon will spread European dynamism in the framework of the European support for ensuring peace for Lebanon through ending the occupation and Israeli threats," Nabih Berri, the speaker of parliament said in reply to Mr. Scalfaro.

Lebanon and Syria, which has some 35,000 troops in Lebanon, have sought a larger European role in the U.S.-dominated Middle East peace process. Talks have made almost no progress since the election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in May 1996.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 ..... Twinkle  
14:30 ..... Muppet Show  
15:00 ..... Pumpkin Patch  
15:15 ..... World of Geo  
16:00 ..... The Valley Between  
16:30 ..... Neighbours  
17:00 ..... French programmes  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:30 ..... News headlines  
20:00 ..... The Newly Weds  
20:30 ..... Prism  
21:10 ..... Time Trax  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film "Canvas"  
23:59 ..... Ellen

### PRAYER TIMES

04:34 ..... Fajr  
05:53 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:19 ..... Dhuhur  
14:19 ..... 'Asr  
16:45 ..... Maghreb  
18:04 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swatfeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

622366

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.

771751.

Amman International Church

Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department

of Meteorology

Skies will be partly cloudy

with a chance of occasional

scattered showers and winds

southeasterly moderate to

active. In Aqaba, it will be

dusty, skies partly cloudy with

a chance of scattered showers.

Winds will be northerly moderate

to active and seas choppy.

Min/Max temp.

Amman ..... 11/21

Aqaba ..... 17/27

Deserts ..... 08/22

Jordan Valley ..... 17/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 21 Aqaba 27 Humidity

readings: Amman 50 per cent,

Aqaba 45 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour ..... 750197

Dr. Afif Shukri ..... 898863

Dr. Nidal Dahleh ..... 827195

Dr. Sa'ad Tawfik ..... 778336

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336

Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055

Nahrain pharmacy ..... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 281484

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ra'ith Atallah ..... 994424

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111,

637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department ..... 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 891611/115

661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power Company ..... 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre

813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.

642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

642362

Mallhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 845845

Al-Munasher Hospital ..... 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muthajreen

777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh

775111/26

Army, Marka ..... 891611/115

Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital

(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732

Al Hikam Modern Hospital

(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

(02)75555

Greek Catholic Hospital

(02)72275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital

(02)247



## Regent stresses need for knowledge on Jerusalem to 'defend Holy City'

unit for child abuse, which is coordinating with the NTFC to incorporate suggested amendments to existing penal codes related to child abuse in particular, the announcement read.

Attending the meeting with the Queen were Princess Rania, the Queen's social policy advisor In'am Mufit, members of the NTFC legislative committee including Na'ela Rashdan, members of the JRDP Child Abuse Project, and NTFC Coordinator Hayat Yaghi, the statement concluded.

He praised Prince Hassan's ongoing efforts to promote interfaith dialogues and his endeavours to project Islam's tolerant image to the world.

Attending the meeting was His Majesty King Hussein's Advisor on Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Khatib. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Ahbadi, and Mohammad Adnan Bakhit, president of Al Al-Bayt University.

## Princess Basma attends exhibit in Bahrain

**Bahrain.** She praised the existing strong ties between the peoples of Jordan and Bahrain. Princess Basma expressed her appreciation to the emir for the hospitality accorded to her and for his endeavours to bolster Bahrain's ties with Jordan in all fields.

# Police questioning Ma'an clan members involved in triple murder

farm.  
"One of the suspect's friends, Rafe' Salyitah, opened fire at Sultan while he was inside the farm, but

Following the shooting incident, police cordoned off the area and arrested the concerned parties, the source said.

"All parties involved are being interrogated by the criminal prosecutor, who is expected to refer their case to the criminal case after concluding his investigation," the source added.

## Health professionals announce plan to resume strike

Dr. Dajani also announced that the three associations have created a committee chaired by former Health Minister Zuhair Malhas to serve as a liaison between the associations and the Ministry of Health and reach a final solution to the outstanding issues.

## Diabetes conference scheduled to open today at U. of Jordan

diabetes, and the treatment of disabilities resulting from the disease, the statement said.

Several working papers will deal with educating patients and their families on how to care for diabetics and the nutritional factors in dealing with the disease.

# Minister attends U.N. agriculture conference in Rome

on the mid-term plan on food, which covers the period from 1998 to 2003, as well as FAO plans to implement agricultural projects at the international and regional levels.

Mr. Khreisra said the conference will also discuss human rights, including the right to adequate food and the need to include this right in international and national legislation. The conference will call on the donor countries and international finance agencies to provide support and loans to developing countries to enable them to implement their food production projects.

The conference is scheduled to endorse the FAO programme of action and its 1998 projects, estimated to cost \$25 million.



**TO THE VICTOR:** Supporters of Hamad Abu Zeid, a bedouin candidate, celebrate Mr. Abu Zeid's election Friday by slaughtering a sheep in Sahab. Tribal leaders loyal to His Majesty King Hussein took the majority of the seats in the Lower House of Parliament (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

## Over 400 attend Soltau's funeral

citizen, arrived in the Kingdom in 1967 with 65-year-old Aileen Coleman of Australia in a mission to help save the lives of the residents of the remote regions. The two also opened a clinic in Rass Al Nagab, near Ma'an, for chest diseases. The two first arrived to the Aroub area in the West Bank in the early 50s.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Princess Rania recognises baseball winners

**AMMAN (Petra) —** HRH Princess Rania Friday attended a special ceremony held at Terra Sancta School and presented awards and medals to 50 winners in a baseball competition organised by the Association of Children of Jordan. Taking part in the competition were school children aged 5-

# WHAT'S GOING ON

## CHURCH SERVICE

\* Remembrance day church service at the Church of the Redeemer, First Circle, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

## CONCERT

\* Concert by the Ensemble Incanto at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

## FILM

\* Comedy: "Schulz und Schulz" (pt. I)  
at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman at 4:30  
p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

\* Bani Hamida fall exhibition

"Encounter" (displaying rugs designed by Japanese textile designer Tomoko Iyoda) at Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 25 (Tel. 638696/7).

- \* Exhibition of wider accessories from Wadi Rayan, handicrafts and gift items at the Jordan Rivers Designs showroom (Tel. 613081), until Nov. 23.
- \* Works by Su'ad Ibrahim entitled "The Soul Rest" at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 553098), until Nov. 11.
- \* Paintings by Patrice Cadennec at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 26.
- \* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

## Opposition groups denounce American sanctions on Sudan

**AMMAN (J.T.)**— Jordan's 12 opposition political parties have called on the Arab Nation to counter American attempts to impose total sanctions on Sudan by opening the borders with that country and lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq and Libya.

In a statement released Thursday, the opposition bloc said the American administration's move to further tighten sanctions on Khartoum coincided with further U.S. material, military, and other forms of support for "the Zionist enemy" and openly displayed a hostile attitude towards the Arab Nation.

"The American move against Sudan also coincides with new threats of more sanctions on Iraq and Libya. American conspiracies have been launched against all Arab states by encouraging the Zionist enemy to conduct attacks on Lebanon, backing Turkish aggression against Iraq, and threatening Syria with war because of its stand-

"While condemning these hostile moves, the opposition parties call on political forces, parties, and unions in the Arab World, as well as the Arab masses at large, to declare their support for Sudan and to mobilise their ranks to repel these aggressive acts against the Arab World. The opposition also calls for a determined struggle to evict the American forces from the Arab World and to end all forms of official Arab military and economic collaboration with the enemy," the statement added.

"The time has come for ending any consideration of the U.S. government as a sponsor of the so-called peace process because the American stand is a carbon copy of the Zionist stand. The time has come for lifting all forms of sanctions on Iraq, Libya, and Sudan and opening all Arab countries' borders with these three Arab states," the statement concluded.

# OPROEP AAN ALLE NEDERLANDERS IN HET BUITENLAND

## Tweede Kamerverkiezingen 6 mei 1998

Op 6 mei 1998 zullen de verkiezingen voor de Tweede Kamer worden gehouden. Iedere stemgerechtigde Nederlander kan aan deze verkiezingen deelnemen, ook als hij of zij in het buitenland woont. Dat wil zeggen dat iedereen met de Nederlandse nationaliteit, ongeacht zijn of haar woonplaats, van 18 jaar of ouder in principe kan deelnemen.

## MAAK GEBRUIK VAN UW STEMRECHT

**Hoe kunt u stemmen?**  
Om te kunnen stemmen moet u zich tijdig als kiezer registreren. Van 3 november 1997 tot en met 24 maart 1998 kunt u zich laten opnemen in het kiezersregister voor de Tweede Kamerverkiezingen. De kiesregistratie-formulieren zijn op aanvraag verkrijgbaar bij uw ambassade of consulaat. Tevens kunt u de formulieren terugvinden op de internet-site van het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken.

**Heeft u al eerder gestemd?**  
Nederlanders die in 1994 in het buitenland woonden en toen hebben deelgenomen aan de verkiezingen voor de Tweede Kamer krijgen automatisch van de gemeente Den Haag een nieuw kiesregistratie-formulier toegezonden. Zij krijgen dan uiteraard toegestuurd op het in 1994 opgegeven adres. Als u in de tussentijd verhuisd bent kunt u voor de zekerheid het best een nieuw registratieformulier aanvragen.

**Wilt u meer informatie?**  
Op de internet-site van Buitenlandse Zaken vindt u een beschrijving van de registratieprocedure. U kunt natuurlijk ook altijd contact opnemen met uw ambassade of consulaat.

Internet Buitenlandse Zaken: <http://www.minbuza.nl>







**BBC-TV to launch 24-hour news network in Britain**

LONDON (AFP) — BBC television is to launch a 24-hour news network in Britain Sunday, which will compete directly with Rupert Murdoch's Sky News channel on cable TV.

Executives of the broadcaster said that several other operators had already indicated they would drop Sky News's pay channel and launch a free-to-air news channel.

Meanwhile, BSB and BSkyB had announced plans to launch a 24-hour news channel, but BBC management insisted it was part of the network's public service mission.

BSB, News 24 will go live on November 24, while BSkyB's News 24 will go live on November 25.

The BBC already has a 24-hour news channel, but it is not a pay channel.

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The village of Valverde de Leanes, near Merida, after strong rains and winds swept through it (AFP photo)

### Spanish leaders visit flood region as search goes on

BADAJOS, Spain (AFP) — Spanish Crown Prince Felipe and Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar were expected in the stricken Badajoz region of southwest Spain Friday in the wake of flooding which killed 21 people.

Meanwhile, rescue workers resumed the search for a six-year-old girl and a 39-year-old man still missing following torrential rains Wednesday night.

A further 11 people were killed just over the border in Portugal by the storms which left thousands of people without telephone and electricity and made roads and rail lines impassable.

Although the rain had stopped Friday, several roads were still flooded and the villages of Balboa and Alcazaba were cut off.

Some 700 officers from Spain's Civil Guard, as well as firemen and military, were Friday involved in the salvage operation.

The flooding which ranks among the most deadly in Spain in the past 20 years, has reopened the debate on prevention of natural disasters in a country where the memory is still fresh of a mudslide which swept through a camping site in the Pyrenees killing 86 people in August last year.

### Vietnam storm toll hits 358 as search for survivors continues

HANOI (AFP) — The death toll five days after Typhoon Linda struck the southern coast of Vietnam has reached 358 and another 1,945 fishermen are still missing, officials said Friday.

Figures obtained from the offices of storm and flood control committees in 12 provinces of the Mekong Delta show that 607 people were injured and hundreds of millions of dollars of damage was inflicted.

Vietnam is marshalling all its forces in a rescue attempt to search and recover fishermen caught unexpectedly at sea when Linda hit Sunday.

"We do not have massive governmental rescue forces so we have authorized the inhabitants of each locality to conduct the search at sea," said an official from the Committee for Storm and Flood Control of southern Vietnam.

He said helicopters and boats were working day and night in the search — a measure which had paid off. An official from Ca Mau province, which bore the brunt of the storm, said the province had managed to rescue 2,157 people.

"We don't know when this search work will finish, but we will continue as long as there is hope of finding someone," he said.

According to statistics from the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) of the U.N. Development Programme, by late Thursday, 2,326 boats had sunk.

A DMU official praised Vietnam's rescue efforts, saying the country's "culture is based on disaster relief."

In Kien Giang province, where 684 people are still missing, an official said that local relief supplies had been exhausted. But local residents remain optimistic about rescue operations despite the odds.

"Everyone is devastated by the disaster but the families of victims have not given way to despair and hope to see once again their loved ones at the end of each rescue mission," he said.

Official figures released by the Central Committee of Storm and Flood Control in Hanoi put the material damage at \$365 million. The DMU in Hanoi reported that 64,516 homes had been destroyed by the storm and subsequent flooding, while over 110,869 houses were damaged.

### Typhoon Linda lifts haze over Indonesia

JAKARTA (AFP) — Typhoon Linda, which killed hundreds of people in a brutal sweep through South East Asia, has helped to lift choking clouds of smog in Indonesia, the meteorology office here said Friday.

The low pressure area surrounding Linda has produced air movements which have dragged smoke and clouds away from the island of Sumatra, Yunus of the meteorology headquarters said.

Winds over the country's westernmost island were moving towards the west and northwest, carrying smog and haze out into the Indian Ocean, he said.

Riau, one of the provinces covered in smoke from Sumatra's forest and ground fires, was clear Friday, with visibility reaching up to seven kilometres, a meteorology official in the provincial capital Pekanbaru who identified himself as Darwin said.

Elsewhere, visibility was between three and ten kilometres, he said.

Clearer skies were also recorded in Padang in West Sumatra, in Bengkulu province and in South Sumatra, officials said.

However, Padang airport remained closed Friday because visibility remained at only 1,200 metres, an airport official said.

Another notable exception was the province of Jambi, central Sumatra, one of the regions hardest hit by the haze.

"Visibility is now down to around 75 metres compared to yesterday's 300 metres," said Sumpeno of Jambi's meteorology office.

He said the thickening smoke was due to the absence of strong winds there since early in the morning.

Winds were pushing smoke inland in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo, and towards the west of the island, Mr. Yunus said.

## Anger in South Korea and Japan over disputed islets

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea and Japan Friday defiantly renewed claims of sovereignty and made new protests over a disputed cluster of small rocky islands.

Japan's acting ambassador to Seoul, Odano Nobutake, was summoned by the Foreign Ministry to hear "regrets" over the summoning of South Korea's envoy in Tokyo Thursday, officials said.

But in Tokyo, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed regret over South Korea's building of a wharf on the islets, which has caused the new tension.

A Japanese right-wing extremist was arrested Friday for allegedly trying to hurl a firebomb at the South Korean consulate general in the western Japanese city of Osaka. And Tokyo police braced for more demonstrations outside the South Korean embassy.

The islands — known to Koreans as Tokdo and in Japan as Takeshima — have caused frequent demonstrations in the rival countries.

After Mr. Nobutake was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, a South Korean ministry official said: "We demand that Japan stop bringing up the issue of the islands and accept the fact that they belong to us."

When the South Korean ambassador was summoned in Tokyo, the Japanese government demanded the new wharf be taken down on the islets which are midway between the two countries.

"We have made our protest to the acting ambassador, and he is expected to relay our message back home," the ministry official said.

In Tokyo, the Japanese prime minister criticised the building of the wharf on the islets, which was officially inaugurated Thursday.

"It is very regrettable because I and President Kim Young-Sam have confirmed repeatedly at meetings not to let bilateral relations deteriorate over the issue of the small islands of Takeshima," Mr. Hashimoto said.

South Korea held a ceremony on the nearby Ullung Island, to commemorate the completion of the 80-metre-long wharf which can harbour a 500-tonne ship.

The government said the ceremony was not held on Tokdo because of high seas, but Seoul newspapers said the tone of the celebration, a virtual reaffirmation of sovereignty, was scaled down not to provoke Japan.

Yonhap News Agency said the minister of maritime affairs and fisheries, Joh Jung-Jay, was scheduled to attend the ceremony, but the government instead sent Vice-Minister Chang Sung-Woo.

The South Korean navy stepped up vigilance around the islands after its ambassador was summoned in Tokyo. It said the action was taken to prevent possible infiltration of North Korea and Japanese boats.

Workers and officials at the ceremony held up a framed calligraphy by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam reading — "Tokdo is the easternmost tip of the land of the Republic of Korea," television reported.

The islets have long been the source of bitter territorial disputes. Though economically close, relations remain bitter between South Korea and Japan as many Koreans still have vivid memories of Japan's harsh colonial rule from 1910-45.

The islands dispute flared anew in February 1996 when Japan declared a 200 nautical-mile economic zone encompassing Tokdo-Takeshima.

Tokyo, claiming the islets as Japanese territory, had asked Seoul to delay the wharf construction until the two sides had finished drawing up their respective economic zones under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The economic zones claimed by Japan and South Korea overlap and both contain the islets.

### Chinese beepers wreaking havoc with air traffic control

BEIJING (AFP) — Personal beepers are wreaking havoc with China's air traffic control and officials were inspecting transmitters and will dismantle those that cause problems, the official China Daily said Friday.

More than 40 million "beepers" are in use in China, where there is a shortage of fixed telephone lines, and the transmitters used by the paging companies can interfere with air traffic control.

On June 3, more than 20 planes were kept in a holding pattern over Beijing's airport because of interference caused by 14 pager transmitters installed on the hills to the west of the capital, the China Daily said.

A similar incident occurred on Aug. 13 in Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong in southern China, when the Shenzhen airport was forced to close for two hours, sending flights to other airports, the newspaper said.

Hong Kong officials have also expressed concern that personal message transmitters in neighbouring Guangdong province had been causing problems for its air traffic controllers.

"Though the development of the country's radio paging systems is sound on the whole, some paging companies violated state radio management regulations by establishing high-power transmitters on high hill tops, especially near those for air communications," said Li Deji of the State Radio Regulatory Commission.

More than 2,800 paging companies have come into being since the devices were introduced in China in 1985, the China Daily said.

In Guangdong province alone, more than 6,500 transmitters stronger than 100 watts have been installed, it said.

Authorities began a national inspection in May, leading to the closure of the transmitters which disturbed Beijing airport communications, the daily said. Shenzhen-based companies will be inspected at the end of the month, it said.

Authorities were also encouraging the small paging companies to merge their services to free radio frequencies, it said.

## Australian anti-child abuse campaigner facing expulsion from parliament

SYDNEY (AFP) — Anti-child abuse campaigner Franca Arena is facing expulsion from parliament here next week after an official report found no evidence to support her allegations of a high-level paedophile cover-up.

The report by senior counsel John Nader followed two weeks of hearings last month in which high-profile witnesses, including New South Wales Premier Bob Carr and opposition leader Peter Collins, gave evidence to reject her claims.

The Labour premier said Friday that he would move to expel Ms. Arena, a Labour member of the upper house, from the New South Wales Parliament Tuesday.

Mr. Collins promised opposition support for the move.

Ms. Arena, who said she would resign from the party immediately, had claimed that Mr. Carr and other politicians conspired with officials conducting a royal commission into child abuse to hush up the names of prominent paedophiles.

But Mr. Nader's report said: "Ms. Arena had no evidence, sufficient or otherwise, to support these claims, or any part of them."

"The evidence strongly suggests Ms. Arena knew she had no such evidence," Reports said she would be the first MP to be expelled from the state parliament in living memory and possibly only the second this century.

Retired Supreme Court Judge David Yeldham committed suicide after Ms. Arena named him in parliament last year in relation to investigations by the royal commission.

"My expulsion from parliament is the best news paedophiles could have," she told reporters Friday.

"Media reports since have described Mr. Yeldham as a homosexual who sought out young men in public toilets, but no evidence has been produced to suggest he was a paedophile."

Mr. Carr told reporters the Nader report had found she acted mischievously and said he did not want parliament to become a forum in which politicians could make baseless allegations aimed at destroying their enemies.

Ms. Arena also appealed for public donations to help fund a legal bill of more than Australian dollars 200,000 (\$140,000) for challenging the validity of the Nader inquiry, on grounds that it infringed her parliamentary rights to speak freely.

Among the witnesses to Mr. Nader's inquiry was royal commissioner James Wood, a Supreme Court judge who has been widely praised in political circles for his report in August revealing the extent of child sex abuse in New South Wales.

Mr. Wood slammed years of neglect and under-funding of child protection services and made 140 recommendations for legal and procedural changes aimed at giving children greater protection.

## Chinese child sex scandal shocks Beijing experts

BEIJING (R) — The exposing of an international paedophile ring trading in Chinese children was a new twist to a problem of gang-controlled smuggling of people out of China, experts in Beijing said Friday.

Chinese security officials said they had no information on reports from Italy that a paedophile syndicate selling Chinese children into prostitution in the United States had been exposed.

Western diplomats and aid workers expressed some surprise, saying it was the first time they had heard of a flesh trade to the West in Chinese children.

"It is well known that Chinese gangs smuggle illegal immigrants to the U.S., but this is the first time that I have heard about the smuggling of children for sex," said a Beijing-based U.S. crime expert.

"I have not heard of this before," said a Western diplomat.

An Italian magistrate said Thursday the Chinese children were bought by gangsters in China and flown to the United States via European airports.

The sophistication of such a scheme goes beyond the well-documented traffic in Chinese girls — mostly from ethnic minority groups — across China's southern border into South East Asian brothels.

An official at one international aid organisation, who declined to be further identified, said Thailand and Vietnam were destinations for smuggled girls "but as far as I know, not Western Europe or the United States."

Official Chinese media openly report on the problem of trafficking of women and children within China.

"On international trafficking, this is not an issue that we have heard of as affecting China," said a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) official.

Asked about the Italian report, an official at China's ministry of public security said: "We have not received any information so we can't tell you anything."

Experts said child prostitution was far less common in China than in South East Asian countries.

They said China's relatively strict laws, small families and conservative social attitude would tend to discourage cross-border trafficking in children.

"People are more vigilant against this and the families are small," an international aid worker said.

An official at the All-China Women's Federation said her organisation had not confronted the problem. "If we hear more about it we will work on it," she said.

Terence Hull, a fellow at the research school of social sciences at the Australian National University, noted Chinese orphanages were a source of mainly girls for adoption overseas.

"There has been a lot of talk about these girls being sold to foreigners for adoption."

"Whether that could mean trade, I don't know. But I would certainly be suspicious of it," Mr. Hull said.

The Italian magistrate said customs police in the northern city of Linate discovered the trade in April when a Japanese man and Chinese woman accompanying a 12-year old girl were arrested after arriving on a flight from Bangkok with false passports.

The arrests were not immediately disclosed to give investigators more time to make enquiries.

### TB bacilli found in 1,000 year-old mummy

LONDON (AFP) — Tuberculosis bacilli were found in an Egyptian mummy dated to between 1550 and 1080 BC, the British medical weekly The Lancet reported Friday.

Dr. Andreas Nerlich and colleagues from the pathology department of Munich's Ludwig-Maximilians University isolated the bacilli using a sophisticated technique to identify DNA at the molecular level.

They had looked for the germ after noting that the mummy's right lung showed traces of tuberculosis. The Lancet said, adding that it was the first time molecular diagnosis had been carried out in a mummy.

The report said the careful examination of prevalence of infectious diseases in ancient peoples. It recalled that Colombian scientists had found the parasite responsible for Chagas disease in a 4,000-year-old mummy discovered on the borders of Peru and Chile.

### Road rage victim infected with HIV by headbutt

LONDON (AFP) — An Italian man was infected with the AIDS virus after being headbutted during a road rage attack, scientists said in the British medical journal The Lancet Friday.

The man, who was not named, became infected with HIV and hepatitis B after being attacked by another driver following a car crash, the magazine reported.

The force of the blow left imprints on both men's foreheads and caused them to bleed extensively, it said.

Later it emerged the attacker was an intravenous drug user and had tested positive for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C in 1991.

Italian scientist Andrea Brambilla was quoted as saying: "Blood tests strongly suggested that the similarity between the HIV DNA in the men had not happened by chance, and therefore the headbutt had indeed infected the victim with the two viruses."

## Police seize Australian jailbreaker

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — Police captured one of five men who mounted a spectacular jail break here this week after a tip-off from a brothel, a police spokesman said Friday.

Peter Sterling, a 31-year-old serving a 13-year sentence for kidnap and rape, was found near Brisbane after he was recognised during a late-night visit to a brothel, police spokesman Brian Swift said.

Mr. Sterling and four others broke out of a maximum security prison Wednesday after slicing cell bars with diamond encrusted wire smuggled to them. They then used a heavy bolt cutter thrown from outside to cut through other security fences.

The four still on the run are convicted murderers Frenchman Oliver Alincic, 32, and Australians Andrew Jeffrey, 20 and Jason Nixon, 27, and armed robber Brendan Abbott, 35.

More than 100 police, including elite security units, were hunting the four described by police as desperate and dangerous.



## Jordan Times

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## Hopes for new House

THE NEWLY-ELECTED Parliament is expected to be an inward looking legislature due to its composition. Pro-government independents have won a strong grip on the 13th Parliament and are projected to channel their energies into raising strictly domestic issues. Moderates are normally committed to an internally-oriented agenda. This does not mean that the faltering peace process will not figure high at one stage or another in the deliberations of the Lower House, however. Jordanian-Israeli relations are at their lowest point since the signing of the peace treaty in 1994 and as such they are bound to give a cause for deep concern to most of the deputies notwithstanding the fact that there is not really much that Parliament per se can do about the deteriorating political situation in the region.

Still, the local agenda facing the new Parliament will be replete with priority items. Socio-economic issues such as creeping poverty, the increasing gap between rich and poor and unemployment are likely to be accorded focused attention even though few initiatives for tackling them can be expected to come from the deputies themselves. It is the Executive Branch which must assume a leadership role in addressing these pressing national issues. Parliament is projected to play only a supportive or critical role of the government's economic policies.

On other fronts, the revamping of the Elections Law awaits a thorough reconsideration. So is the Press and Publications Law. The government has hinted on more than one occasion that existing loopholes and shortcomings in the electoral law will be debated by the people's representatives soon.

While we expect the centrists in Parliament not to categorically oppose the government's line on most national issues, we hope that their support be conditioned on real solutions envisaged and provided by the Executive Branch. There is always room for honest differences of opinions on what is best for the country. This is where we hope that the majority of the newly-elected parliamentarians will perform their duties in the most dynamic and able manner.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Tareq Masarweh commented on the results of the general elections by expressing hope that the newly elected deputies will focus on meaningful efforts and work to serve the nation and avoid the tedious and futile speeches that dominated the previous parliaments. We hope that the government will work closely with the new Parliament towards addressing the numerous domestic issues plaguing the country and turn its attention towards securing sufficient water and promoting agriculture which is the backbone of the economy, said the writer. He said the Jordanian people wish that the government and Parliament will stop talking a great deal about privatisation and globalisation and get down to working in fields of real interest to the public. We want a parliament that will stop any government plans to sell out the potash, the phosphate, the cement, the Aqaba port, and the refinery under the excuse of privatisation and turn its attention towards the real issues, said the writer. He said the coming Parliament should open the way for a free press which can help the executive and legislative authorities with their efforts to serve the nation and which can reflect the good image of the country.

Al Aswaq's Munir Hamarneh addressed the issue of the Doha economic summit scheduled for later this month, saying the recent announcements by businessmen in the Arab World about their intention to boycott the coming meeting is a manifestation of the Arab masses' rejection of the meeting and its objectives. It is in a way a show of resistance to the U.S. pressure on the Arab governments to attend the meeting alongside Israel because such a meeting is only serving the interests of the U.S.-Israeli alliance and is against the will of the Arab masses. The writer said the U.S. has exerted tremendous pressure on the Arab governments to attend the Doha meeting in order to show that its so-called peace process is still alive and to prove that Washington's sponsorship of that process is successful. The business communities' rejection of the coming meeting is a clear rejection of American policies in the Middle East and displays the Arab masses' awareness of the dangerous situation created by Israel and the U.S. in their region through the continued Israeli aggression on the Arab World.

## Jordanian Perspective

## What to expect from the new Parliament

By Dr. Musa Keilani

JORDAN HAS turned a landmark in its democratic life with the election of a new Parliament.

This is the first election held since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel three years ago, which sheds a special light on future indications of Jordan's political stands. If we are to compare former parliaments, we see that the Parliament of 1984 was tailor-made to serve one specific objective, i.e., to strengthen Jordan's role in the West Bank and to cement the cohesive nature of Jordanian-Palestinian unity. As for the 1989 Parliament, it was supposed to contain the popular anger which manifested itself in the Ma'an riots of that summer, notwithstanding outside forces having played their role in the Ma'an troubles following the Saddam-Assad secret summit in the Jafra desert.

It has to be admitted that however liberal Jordan hopes to become there will always be certain constraints which will make a Sweden-like democracy nearly impossible. Jordan has a strong tribal background not only in the Armed Forces, but it is permeated into all strata of our society: it has its economic arm, social arm, as well as a political party arm nowadays. So we cannot delude ourselves that the elite intelligentsia of Ph.D. holders should exclusively be elected to staff our 13th Parliament.

It is also true that the Parliament has been instrumental in serving certain goals and other hidden agendas like the peace treaty, the International Monetary Fund restructuring programme, the high taxes and the non-palatable economic laws. But it has continuously been genuinely representative of the demographic contours of Jordan's Palestinians, farmers, bedouins, city dwellers and the ordinary man in the street.

Since politics in Jordan is actually more of a "service industry" than a utopian dream that dismisses the facts on the ground, we should not be totally surprised by having such a high percentage of pro-establishment deputies who woo the confidence and support of their cities and constituencies. Nevertheless we do have strong voices of opposition.

Jordan still lacks a strong centrist party to encompass all the ranks of independent, centrist Jordanians. The National Constitutional Party is relatively new to the political arena which explains its failure to win more than five seats this time.

The popular feeling that Jordanians are not benefiting economically from the peace process, coupled with soaring prices, and the high rate of unemployment contributed to the success of some radical leftists and fundamental rightists.

One of the sociological facts of life among Jordanians is that their support goes first to the next of kin and tribe, then it goes to religion, then to city and lastly to general

ideology. The one-person, one-vote election law capitalised on this fact which led to many traditionalist leaders.

Despite all contentions and allegations, all colours of our political spectrum are represented although it cannot be said that there will be an organised opposition group in the legislature. There could have been some shortcomings in the election process stemming from our relative inexperience in conducting polls, but they should not be and could not be described as irregularities or fraud as some disappointed candidates tend to do.

What is indeed ironic is that such charges are based on a yearning for a fully "Westernised" style of elections on the part of the same people who assail "Western cultural invasion of the Arab World." Well, those should realise that they cannot have it both ways: They simply cannot reject the one-person, one-vote formula in the universally accepted principle for elections and at the same time demand other "Western" trappings for the process. We have to come to accept the reality that given the peculiarities of our society and way of life, there have to be some ground rules which suit the conditions in the country and bode well for the future as we get further along the process.

One of our regrets, however, is the failure of our women candidates to secure a seat in the legislature. With the victory of Toujan Feisal in the 1993 elections, Jordan was proud to boast of another landmark in its political life — the presence of an elected woman candidate in Parliament for the first time in the Arab World. That was further augmented by the presence of two other women in the appointed Upper House of Parliament.

But the outcome of last week's elections set us back on the count of women's presence in the Lower House. One of the arguments for the failure of all the 17 women candidates to make it to the legislature is that despite all contentions and claims to the contrary most of the candidates were betting on their being women and a sense of women's rights and causes to see them through to Parliament. But that was a non-starter from the very beginning simply because the nature of our society is such that the concept of "women for the sake of women's rights" simply does not work.

Now that the elections are behind us and the legislature is about to begin its work, it has also become clear that pressing domestic issues would dominate the new Parliament's work and not much time would be wasted on rhetoric against the treaty of peace. Jordan's decision to sign a peace treaty with its next door neighbour was a strategic option based on the realisation that we have had enough of wars and conflicts that have been preoccupying us throughout and depriving us not only of valuable

resources but also potential for development that could address our problems such as poverty and unemployment. The low number of "opposition deputies in the new Parliament does not and should not mean that the executive authority, regardless of the person who heads it, can afford to render a lukewarm performance and get away with it.

The track record of some of the new/old parliamentarians is clear and gives us hope that issues that should be openly debated in a healthy way would indeed be brought out with the importance and focus they deserve. And we also know that our leadership has always welcomed constructive criticism and moved swiftly to resolve problems and bottlenecks wherever possible, despite the political risks involved. The slow but steady campaign against corruption in official circles is one of those areas which were highlighted by the opposition in outgoing parliaments and picked up and acted upon by the government based on the realisation that it is a festering sore in our life. That makes us optimistic that prompt and dedicated action will be taken by the executive authority as and when substantiated arguments are presented on the Parliament floor based on constructive criticism rather than for the sake of raising issues for the sake of raising issues to discredit the government.

The presence of deputies like Abdullah Alkaleh, Bassam Haddadin, Mohammad Oran, Ahmad Oweidi Ahtadi, and Mansour Murad tells us that there will be opposition in Parliament but disorganised because of the differing political ideologies they adhere to. But we have to remember that their real strength lies outside Parliament, and we can expect to see more demonstrations and rallies organised by the mainstream Islamist movement and other groups, which despite disagreements with the "independent" deputies, would not only bring up burning issues but also rally behind the "opposition" whenever the ideas of the various parties involved converge.

As to the Islamist voice itself in Parliament, let us not forget that the new legislature has indeed someone like Sheikh Mohammad Raafat from Baqaa — whose stands would make some of our former Islamist deputies look like moderates.

There is little ground to argue that the new legislature is "domesticated" as some have tried to portray it based on external issues and policies. Jordan's 13th Parliament is going to focus on internal issues and problems that face Jordanians with a view to resolving them.

That is the way the people spoke, and they are also hopeful that is the way it is going to be for the next four years.

## Commentators shift talk to post-election stage

REVIEWED BY  
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL dailies gave prominence to the parliamentary elections and their results, the crisis between the U.N. and Iraq, the peace process and domestic affairs.

Now that the parliamentary elections are over the present government which has accomplished its work is expected to resign and open the way for a new government to deal with the legislative authority in accordance with norms prevailing in various democracies, said Taher Adwan of Al Arab Al Yawm. The change in the executive authority is necessary following the series of developments on the internal and external fronts and in light of the domestic situation, particularly the government's relations with the opposition groups, mainly the Muslim Brotherhood, said the writer. The government has to give way to another government, more open to and able to deal with the professional unions which have been staging strikes to demand their rights and the opposition groups which have openly expressed their frustration with the government over numerous issues, according to the writer, who said a new Parliament should bring with it a new phase, requiring a new government and a new agenda.

Mahmoud Rimawi of Al Ra'i analysed the results of the general elections saying that the new set-up in Parliament includes a wide range of political shades and deputies affiliated to leftist and Islamist ideologies alike. The results showed that people in the major cities including Amman are concerned less with politics than with economic issues, that the one-person, one-vote system has deprived women of the right to reach Parliament, something which calls for a quick change and the introduction of a modern Election Law that can cater to the aspirations of all people, Rimawi said. On the whole, he said, there is no doubt the coming few months will see the deputies trying their best to prove their stand and put into practice the ideas which they had aired in their election campaigns and show the electorate that they were trustworthy.

Khawla Abdul Hadi of Al Dour said the results of the elections saying that they frustrated Jordanian women who had worked hard to reach Parliament. It is premature to guess what went wrong and what prevented women from clinching a single seat in the new Parliament, but it should be emphasised that many of the women candidates deserve to sit in the Lower

House in view of high level of education and vast experience in domestic affairs, and are in fact considered by a major sector of the public to be more capable to handle public issues than many of those elected, stressed the writer. She said in the coming general elections women should be given a quota in Parliament as the work of those highly qualified for the job is definitely needed by the public.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab claimed that many irregularities occurred in the general elections which render the results incorrect. The fact that there was a very poor turnout of voters in Amman and other cities reflects a disgruntled and dissatisfied public with the obsolete elections law, he said. The writer said the Elections Law has many loopholes and opens the way for rigging the results and tampering with the distribution of voter cards as happened in many districts. Claiming that he has solid proof of manipulation and the confusion surrounding the voter cards distribution, the Qallab said this situation enabled the representatives of the tribes rather than the political groups to emerge as winners, something, he contended, which dealt a blow to Jordan's democratic experiment.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Oreih Rintawi of Al Dour said Iraq should find a way to avoid military confrontation with the U.S. which seems determined to launch yet another aggression on Iraqi territory. It is true that Iraq is fed up with the endless work of the international weapons inspection teams and the sanctions which have been in place for the past seven years, but any move to provoke the U.N. and the U.S. will not bring an end to the present situation, according to the writer. Iraq had counted on France, Russia and China to back it at the Security Council and to approve of Baghdad's dismissal of the American members of the inspection teams, but its hopes were frustrated when all the council members were aligned behind Washington, Rintawi said. If the Iraqis remain adamant, they will face further sanctions and more sufferings for their people, he said.

Daoud Qarnab, a writer at Al Arab Al Yawm, said the present crisis is one that concerns Iraq and the U.N., but not the U.S. which is threatening to launch aggression on Baghdad. Yet it seems that Baghdad has provoked the U.S. by backing its representatives in the weapons inspection teams and thus prompting Washington to threaten strikes against Baghdad, he said. According to Qarnab, the U.S. wants

to impose its will on Iraq and keep the door open for its spies and its military experts to move about freely anywhere in Iraq in defiance of the Iraqi nation and Iraq's sovereignty. He said the U.S. moves are clearly influenced by the Zionist lobby in the U.S. which wants Washington to subdue the Arabs and deprive them of any chance to threaten Israel's domination of the Arab region. The writer said that even if the Americans toppled President Saddam Hussein, they can by no means subdue the will of the Iraqi nation.

Fahed Fanek of Al Ra'i expressed the view that Jordan took an uncalculated and rash decision with Israel in connection with the Mishal affair. Jordan could have bargained a better deal than that which secured the release of a paralysed man and a few Jordanians who had committed common crimes, he said. Jordan should have demanded that the top leaders of the Mossad be sacked and the release of all Jordanian detainees from Israeli jails in exchange for the release of the Mossad agents who were caught trying to assassinate a Jordanian citizen on Jordanian territory. Noting that the Palestinians succeeded in securing the release of 1,100 detainees from Israeli jails in 1985 in exchange for the release of three Israeli soldiers captured in action, the writer said the fact that the Mossad echelon remained in office after the scandal reflected Netanyahu's total disregard of Israel's relations with Jordan.

Fakhr Kavar, a writer for Al Ra'i criticised the convening of the IATA conference in Amman as an event that further drained the finances of Royal Jordanian which hosted the meeting. Upon organising the meeting, the government said that IATA's decision to hold the meeting in Amman was in recognition of the country's national airline's prominent role in air transport services at the regional and international levels, but in fact there is nothing in the performance of Royal Jordanian, which is indebted by JD700 million, that entitles it to host the meeting, speeding JD1 million on the event further draining the country's financial resources, Kavar said. The writer said IATA's conference is not expected to help boost the Kingdom's tourism industry through such meeting and the government should have spent the money on much more important matters like giving the striking doctors allowances to attain a higher standard of living.

## LETTERS

## Where to point the finger.

To the Editor:

I STILL can't get over the high dose of shock I received after hearing that not a single woman of 17 candidates was elected to parliament. I tried to find a logical explanation for what happened.

Whom are we to blame, I asked myself. The youngsters who didn't bother to even think of voting, and instead enjoyed a vacation day by travelling to neighbouring countries?

The women who went along with their husbands' decision and voted for whomever they were told to vote for?

The overprotective families who forbade their daughters from going out to vote on a rainy day on the pretext of protecting them from any possible danger? The careless, hopeless attitude that has been penetrating our society lately?

Or are we to blame the lack of public awareness on the importance of a gender-balanced parliament. I kept asking myself these questions over and over again till I finally reached the decision that is we, the youngsters, who are the ones to be blamed most for our complete indifference concerning political issues. We are the new generation with the utmost education, and as such we should try to make a difference. We are the ones who should encourage this society towards the promotion and enforcement of equal rights and equal opportunities.

A quota for women might have been the best solution in confronting narrow-minded attitudes. It might have been the only solution to stop this machismo movement from spreading. Or maybe I'm just day-dreaming after all.

Natasha Twal  
Twal@index.com.jo

## Publicise SPANA

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to refer to the letter to the editor "SPANAs Deserves Praise." Jordan Times, Oct. 8, 1997, by Ms. Pia Kanaan.

Before reading this letter, I had no idea that the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals existed in Jordan, and to be frank, I was surprised. Surprised, again I want to be open and direct, because few people do care about animals, and when they express it, they are often laughed at. I am talking from experience. What I frequently hear is, people, children and adults, proudly boasting about banging cats or setting fire to their tails, or squeezing the neck of the bird out of its body when it is still alive.

SPANAs saves and protects wretched animals from violence and cruelty. I wonder why we don't read or hear much about this association. It should have more publicity on television and daily newspapers. We constantly read and hear about associations that call for the protection and care of the environment, but never or rarely hear about one that calls for the protection of animals.

We, as a country, have gone so far in so many aspects and ways, that the establishment of such an institute fits in a way that completes the circle.

Rula S. Naffa  
Amman







## Government seeks highly qualified strategic partner to buy 40% of JTC

By Issam Qadmani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian government is seeking an international strategic partner with experience in the area of telecommunication technology to buy 40 per cent of the state equity in the Jordan Telecommunications Corporation (JTC).

According to Transport and Telecommunications Minister Bassam Al Saket, the government has decided to increase the strategic partner's investment share from 26 per cent to 40 per

cent and is willing to sell this portion of its equity to any international strategic partner having had revenues equivalent to \$3.5 billion in 1996 and a minimum of 3.5 million access lines in service at December 1996.

Dr. Saket expected American, European and Japanese investors to send offers for investment in JTC, noting that the government-appointed financial advisor has officially put up the government's shares for sale.

Dr. Saket said the gov-

ernment reserves the right to retain a special evaluation of the JTC assets in accordance with the latest reevaluation made by the financial advisor.

JTC is the operator of Jordan's public telecommunications network and will have exclusive authorisation until Dec. 31, 2002 to operate international, domestic, long distance and local basic telephone services in Jordan.

The government has authorised the JTC to operate the mobile telephone network in Jordan from

November 1998 following the expiry of the contract with Fast Link, the present operator of the cellular network.

Dr. Saket said the JTC's revenues in 1996 totalled JD160 million amidst expectations that such revenues will increase to approximately JD200 million in 1997.

Dr. Saket said the strategic partner buying the government shares shall be represented on the company's management and its board of directors.



Ambassador Egan shakes hands with Minister Haddadin Thursday after delivering the laboratory (Petra photo)

## U.S. presents a mobile water quality laboratory to Ministry of Water and Irrigation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin represented Jordan at a ceremony held Thursday at the ministry premises where U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley Egan, presented a mobile water quality laboratory to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The laboratory, which was provided by the United States Department of State within the framework of the regional water data banks project, will facilitate the collection and preservation of water samples from throughout the Kingdom, providing data necessary for Jordan's water managers to make informed decisions about the use, distribution, con-

servation and protection of Jordan's vital water resources.

Because water quality analyses must meet stringent requirements that are difficult to attain on-site, the mobile laboratory meets the critical necessity of having a controlled environment in which to conduct water analysis at field locations.

The laboratory consists of an air conditioned workspace mounted on a four-wheel drive diesel truck. The laboratory's clean water system, independent electrical supply and sophisticated instrumentation will support the ministry's need to carry out water quality sampling and analysis at field locations.

It will complement the capabilities of the ministry's central water quality laboratories.

United States experts will train Jordanian's in the operation of the laboratory.

The regional water data banks project is supported by the United States, the European Union, France, Canada, Norway and Australia. It has contributed a broad spectrum of resources to water agencies in Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, including training, equipment, and technical expertise in water data collection and analysis methods.

## Jobless rate plunges to 24-year low in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. jobless rate plunged to its lowest level since 1973 last month but analysts say Asia's wobbly financial markets should induce the Federal Reserve to leave monetary policy alone.

The Labour Department reported Friday that a surging U.S. economy pushed the jobless rate down to 4.7 per cent, from 4.9 per cent in September, by creating 284,000 jobs.

The October figure was far stronger than had been expected on Wall Street, where analysts were predicting job growth of 215,000 and an unemployment rate of 4.8 per cent.

President Bill Clinton called a press conference to celebrate the October job growth and to issue one last appeal to Congress to back legislation giving him "fast-track" authority to negotiate new trade deals.

The administration is fighting an uphill battle for fast-track in the House of Representatives, where a vote planned for Friday was put off until the weekend.

"I think it's important that we understand that a key reason that more people are working and that wages are rising and that unemployment is down to its lowest level in more than two decades is that we have opened new markets and won new customers for American goods and services," the president argued.

## Growing gloom seen in Japanese economy

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's trade minister said Friday the world's second-biggest economy was becoming "extremely unstable" as analysts warned uncertainty over its future was growing. "The situation is becoming extremely unstable," International Trade and Industry Minister Mitsunori Harauchi said, pointing to volatile Japanese stock prices which had been "engulfed by overseas markets."

"The government needs to draw up deregulation measures that surpass market expectations in order to ease uncertainty over the economy," a trade ministry spokesman quoted Mr. Harauchi as telling cabinet ministers.

The government is to unveil a package of deregulation proposals and measures to boost liquidity of the property market this month to stimulate the economy.

Analysts warned that the government-termed "economic recovery" was slowing.

"A risk of recession is growing," said Yasutoshi Nagai, economist at Yamachi Research Institute, adding that such a scenario was not yet certain since some recovery was expected in personal consumption early next year.

He supported the government's plan not to use public money in an economic stimulus package.

"Economic rescue packages with huge public works spending has not worked well in the past," he said.

"They can even cause negative side effects — the use of public money would further strain government finances, making people worry about pension and other public welfare schemes and increase savings at the expense of spending," he said.

The analyst said government deregulation plans to restructure the economy would help in the future.

Toshio Sumitani, economist at Tokyo Research Institute, said uncertainty had been increasing, adding weakness in personal consumption, which accounts for 60 per cent of gross domestic product.

"I would say the economy is in a 'sentimental depression'," he said.

"Both consumers and companies are feeling insecure ahead of the Tokyo Big Bang (deregulation measures to be completed

by 2001) and cuts in public works spending under an austere budget.

"They cannot plan for the future," he said.

Economic Planning Agency director-general Koji Omi said Friday he planned to finalise the government's economic stimulus package before Nov. 20. "I asked ministers after this morning's cabinet meeting to cooperate in compilation of the package on the premise that the government would not offer extra spending," Mr. Omi told a news conference.

Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka also reiterated the government would not resort to fiscal measures.

The government's management and coordination agency said Japan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September stood at 3.4 per cent, unchanged for the third consecutive month, with the recovery tempo slowing.

The labour ministry said that the ratio of job openings to job seekers stood at 0.71 in September, down 0.01 points from August, meaning there were 71 job offers for every 100 job seekers.

Schroders Japan Ltd. said in a report that the number of manufacturing jobs had dropped 2.5 per cent year-on-year. "The fourth consecutive monthly drop in manufacturing jobs is disturbing," it said.

"The worsening effective job offer-to-applicant ratio suggests consumer sentiment will worsen and propensity to spend will fall," the Schroders report added.

The management and coordination agency said in a separate report that consumer prices in September rose 0.7 per cent from the previous month after rising 0.1 per cent in August.

The nation's consumer prices in the month were up 2.4 per cent from a year earlier, the largest gain since April 1992, when consumer prices rose by the same margin.

Agency officials said the largest increase was in medical service costs, which rose 11.4 per cent following a change in the nation's health insurance scheme.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Mutsushita said the Japanese economy was in a "phase of slowdown" due to the prolonged impact of the consumption tax increase in April.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1998  
By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) People who can figure out what's going on without asking have the advantage today. That's usually not your strong point. You can develop those talents, however. It just takes practice. You're eager to move ahead in your career. This is a time to do that.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You're usually most comfortable at home. This weekend, however, is perfect for travel. Make arrangements first thing this morning. Tomorrow should be marvellous for parties, visiting friends and maybe even a family reunion. Better get on the phone right now.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You like people to come right out and say what they want. But that won't be the case today, so you might as well relax and enjoy it. Think about other people's feelings. Watch how they act instead of what they say and you'll do fine.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You'll be feeling impetuous, outspoken and assertive. You might find yourself telling your partner exactly what's on your mind. Sometimes you think that's impolite. Today it could just come out. That's OK. Go ahead and let it happen. It'll be good for both of you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) There's work to be done, and you're in the mood. Instead of just housework, take on a job that pays money. You're coming up with all kinds of things you'd like to buy. Why should you scrimp and save? Just increase your income and you can do whatever you want.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Be especially attentive to a quiet person's feelings. Don't be critical, even in jest. He or she will be more vulnerable than usual, so it'll be easier to cause hurt. Just be tuned in and you'll both have a positive experience.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You're very busy, and there's a lot to be done. Unfortunately, you might also be feeling scattered. First, get organised. Otherwise, you could waste this entire day and not accomplish a thing. Make setting priorities your first priority.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This weekend should be lots of fun. You hereby have permission to act like a kid again. Gather up a batch of friends and loved ones, just for the fun of it. Have everybody bring their favourite games. There's no better way to learn than by playing together.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Remember those folks you promised to invite for dinner someday? Well, here's your chance. Take a guest to lunch. Have somebody else over for dinner. You might even go out for a late date after that, if you're up for it. Be careful about spending too much money, though.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have more enthusiasm and energy than usual. You're interested in learning, and you have some good people around to teach you. Ask them to do that. You'll find them enthusiastic and flattered by the attention you're giving. This is definitely a win-win situation.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You find it difficult to deal with people who are not reasonable or rational. Today, you're going to be surrounded by them. No need to panic. Just keep your wits about you and pay attention to innuendoes. That's the way these people communicate.

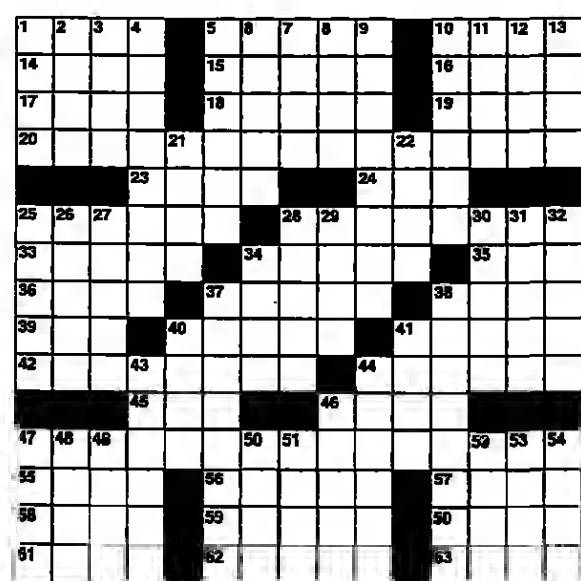
**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You and your friends finally have the energy and enthusiasm to do something you've been talking about. For example, instead of sitting around drinking beer, build a house with Habitat for Humanity. There are plenty of opportunities out there. Make a few calls this morning.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

## THE Daily Crossword

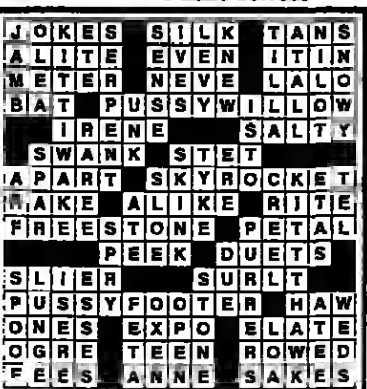
### ACROSS

- 1 Took advantage of
- 5 Take a breather
- 10 Meat cut
- 14 Offended
- 15 Steel or brass
- 16 Where the heart is?
- 17 Drinking cups
- 18 Old hat
- 19 Uncap
- 20 Kinds of containers
- 23 Vase-shaped jug
- 24 Stout
- 25 Certain hair dyes
- 28 Scales
- 33 Noted violin maker
- 34 Soup holders
- 35 Court concern
- 36 Youngsters
- 37 Bitter drug
- 38 Current fashion
- 39 Greek vowel
- 40 African antelope
- 41 Took on
- 42 Convention participant
- 44 Harsh
- 45 — sister
- 46 Farmland piece
- 47 Kinds of containers
- 55 Con
- 56 Fable lesson
- 57 Soft cheese
- 58 List part
- 59 Stand
- 60 Emerald Isle
- 61 Verne captain
- 62 Neck features
- 63 Sweetie



by Diane C. Baldwin

### Puzzle solved:

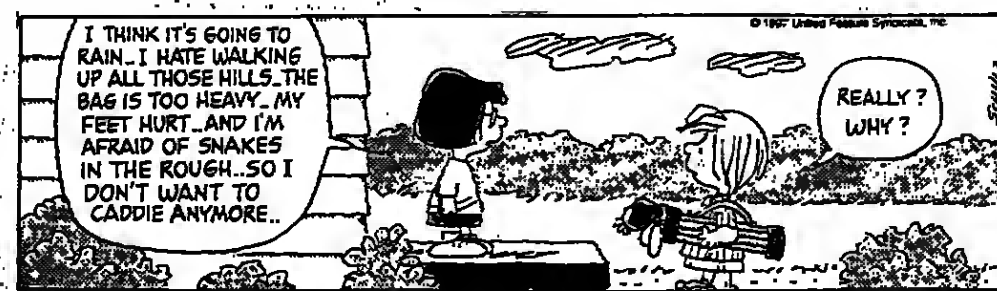


- ### DOWN
- 1 Gorge
  - 2 Crabby
  - 3 Hence
  - 4 Mountaineering
  - 5 Football plays
  - 6 Vow-taking site
  - 7 — Bator
  - 8 Auctioneer's cry

- 9 Scintillates
- 10 Selected
- 11 Navajo neighbor
- 12 Sign
- 13 Writes down
- 21 Movie badge
- 22 Word of resignation
- 23 Loathed
- 24 Ham it up
- 27 Of birth
- 28 Famous frontiersman
- 29 Filled with wonder
- 30 — Boothe Luca
- 31 Enthusiastic
- 32 Nobel, for one
- 34 Utter without thinking
- 37 Man from Montgomery
- 38 Wadi
- 40 Selvas
- 41 Munich mixer
- 43 Nome native

- 44 Piano exercise
- 45 Degrade
- 47 Adams' son
- 48 Feed the kitty
- 49 Rose support
- 50 Ms. Ephron
- 51 Sign of a leak
- 52 Buffalo's lake
- 53 Modena money
- 54 Valtinator

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



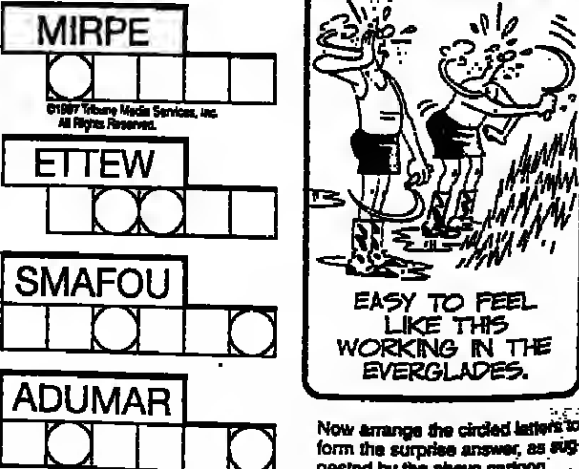
## THE BETTER HALF



"I ordered smaller checks so it seems like we're spending less."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Answers tomorrow)  
Saturday's Jumbles: FACET CASTE PREACH SOCIAL  
Answer: This will make a lawyer successful — LOTS OF "PRACTICE"



# Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

## Government participation, investments seen strong incentive to private sector

**THE REASON** that was behind the participation of the government in productive investment with the private sector during the 60s, 70s and 80s still exists, economic analyst and banker Wasef Azar said in a recent lecture. "If the private sector is in a much stronger position than during the 60s and the 70s, the productive investment is still low and continues to characterise our financial activity," Mr. Azar said. He added: "With the emergence of deep economic and social problems, such as unemployment and poverty, it is therefore necessary that the government participation be a strong incentive to the private sector and, consequently, be a serious factor in resolving many sensitive economic problems."

Noting that among the reasons that influenced the government to participate in investment alongside the private sector since the 50s were the lack of sufficient private savings and the low private sector awareness of large-scale industrial investment, Mr. Azar stressed that the private sector has never complained of mixed equity through the participation of the government. "They (the private sector) complained of the work of the government institutions in which they did not have any partnership with," he emphasised.

Mr. Azar, who is the general manager of the Jordan National Bank, described the three past decades as being unique for having created a mixed economy whereby the public sector joined with the private sector to carry out the development of the country, unlike other states which adopted socialism and all production elements became owned by the state. He said that the government participation did not cause any imbalance in investments because it directed and pushed the private sector towards higher investments.

The lecture pointed out that as Jordan opens up on the world through various international agreements being negotiated, it is highly desirable more than any time before that the government and the private sector cooperate to form developed and advanced economic units capable of protecting local production and ensure that it continues to be competitive. "All of this requires huge investments that the private sector could not or may not be able to carry and implement," he said stressing that "the government participation is needed to select the best trends without imposing any monopolies in this regard (Al Dustour).

## Trading volume rises, prices drop as AFM comes under the influence of foreign investors

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) increased last week but share prices dropped as a result of foreign portfolios' influence, brokers said Friday.

The AFM's weekly bulletin indicated that the turnover volume increased to JD 5.3 million from JD 3.7 million a week before, or 43.2 per cent increase.

Naim Naqeb, a broker at the Jordan International Financial Centre, said several contracts concluded by foreign portfolios "to buy shares of the Housing Bank, phosphate and potash companies led to the increase in

the general turnover."

Mr. Naqeb told the Jordan Times that the foreign portfolios decision to buy shares of Housing Bank was due to the remarkable profit it recorded by the bank in the first nine months.

He said that on Wednesday, "140,000 of the Housing Bank shares were purchased by these portfolios."

Last month, the Housing Bank announced that its registered JD25 million net profit in the first nine months of 1997.

Mr. Naqeb said the decline in the AFM general price index was due to the portfolios' decision to sell shares in the cement and pharmaceutical and other firms "which caused supply

exceeding demand in the market."

Another broker, who asked not to be named, confirmed Mr. Naqeb's accounts and said that another reason that led the increase was the sudden interest in the shares of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

He emphasised that the declaration of the IDB that it would distribute "a half share to its shareholders and its intention to increase the bank's capital have played another role to increase the purchase of its share."

He explained that "the portfolios decisions to sell shares of the cement company lead to the availability of shares in the market,"

which eventually led to a decrease in the share price of the cement firm.

"The supply has exceeded demand in the market and led to the price decrease of many shares," he said.

"The foreign investors usually create confusion in the market. When they buy shares, confidence enhances but the opposite occurs when they sell their equities," he added.

The weekly bulletin of the general price index, based on prices of the shares of 60 AFM firms, decreased from 170.9 point to 170.56 or 0.43 per cent.

The number of shares that changed hands during the weekly circulation totalled 2.2 million through 1,531

contracts.

The daily turnover reached JD1.33 million compared with JD740,000 in the previous week.

The industrial sector won the lion's share of the weekly turnover with JD 2.2 million or 42 per cent followed by the banks sector with JD2.1 million or 40.8 per cent.

The services sector came third with JD670,000 or 14.3 per cent and insurance companies fourth with JD150,000 or 2.8 per cent.

The bulletin showed that out of 88 firms, shares of 33 companies have registered gain in its prices, shares of 43 firms recorded loss while 12 enterprises witnessed no change.

## REUTERS The Business of Information

### Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	HKD	NTD	INR	SGD	THB	MYR	PHP	SGD	THB	MYR	PHP
US Dollar	1.0000															
DE Mark	0.5853	1.0000														
GB Sterling	1.6885	2.8890	1.0000													
CHF Franc	0.7178	1.2257	0.4242	1.0000												
JP Yen	0.0081	1.3789	0.4770	1.1239	1.0000											
CA Dollar	0.7088	1.2112	0.4183	0.9837	1.14	1.0000										
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0195	0.3525	0.0830	1354.28	0.8412	1.0000									
NL Guilder	0.5201	0.8866	0.3088	0.7233	64.30	0.7324	0.8878	1.0000								
FR Franc	0.1750	0.2987	0.1033	0.24317	21.63	0.2455	0.3365	0.336500	1.0000							

### Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAR	KWD	AED	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000							
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000						
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	1.0000					
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8781	9.9488	1.0000				
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0302	1.0302	1.0000			
Kuwait Dinar	3.3003	2.3368	12.3778	12.442	12.01	1.0000		
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0126	1.0126	0.9912	0.8825	1.0000	
Ethiopian 1000	0.65	0.4641	2.4585	0.2471	2.3864	0.1986	2.4075	1.0000
Egyptian	0.2941	0.2082	1.1029	0.1109	1.0706	0.0891	1.0800	448.61

### Energy

Commodity	Unit	Price
Brent	19.18	19.06
WTI	20.80	20.43
Bonny	19.18	19.06
Dubai	18.75	18.65
U.S. Gas	192.00	180.00

### Metal Prices

Commodity	Unit	Price
Gold (oz's)	308.5	309
Silver (oz's)	4.84	4.86
Platinum (oz's)	396	398
Al (3 Months)	1614	1615
CU (3 Months)	1960	1965
Zinc (3 Months)	1188	1193
Lead (3 Months)	580	583
Ni (3 Months)	6180	6200

### Energy

Commodity	Unit	Price
Coffee (c/lbs)	145.67	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1644	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	303.8	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	140	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	25.43	Spot
Tea (kg/box)	156	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	400	Spot

### Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4555	0.15762	0.37136	33.036
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.46512	0.16096	0.37923	33.759
KW Dinar	3.3003	5.6368	1.95084	4.5977	408.631
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.53104	1.56814	3.69413	328.623
CY Pound	1.9839	3.3884	1.1718	2.7619	245.557


### Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
USD	5.52	5.60	5.70	5.82
GBP	7.38	7.50	7.59	7.62
JPY	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37
DEM	3.54	3.57	3.85	3.90
FRF	3.50	3.72	3.73	3.83
CHF	1.72	1.84	2.03	2.12
ITL	6.57	6.61	6.23	5.94

### \* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1888	1.1927
DE Mark	0.4116	0.4137
CH Franc	0.504	0.5065
FR Franc	0.1229	0.1235
JP Yen	0.5758	0.5787
NL Guilder	0.3652	0.367
IT Lira	0.4192	0.4213

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET															
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN															
TELEPHONE: 407171 / 407179															
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (01/11/1997 - 05/11/1997)															
WEEKLY REPORT															
DURING THE LAST 2 WEEKS															
HIGH	LOW	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER MARKET SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
235.000	228.000	ARAB BANK	15.1	1.22	15	1080	355499	330.00	330.00	328.00	329.00	-1.00	329.162	0.29	3
1.930	1.820	JOR. NATIONAL BANK	-	0.00	58	53285	44571	1.84	1.83	1.80	1.81	-0.03	1.812	0.127	4
5.000	4.800	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.5	2.94	2	8030	40902	5.00	5.10	5.10	5.10	-0.10	5.100	0.00	1
3.000	2.900	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	6	1500	4409	2.93	2.99	2.92	2.95	-0.02	2.939	0.014	4
1.170	1.090	BID. EAST INV. CO.	12.6	0.00	21	28000	30700	1.09	1.12	1.07	1.12	-0.05	1.094	0.280	4
2.600	2.490	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.2	6.11	65	150025	382088	2.54	2.59	2.52	2.55	-0.05	2.547	1.288	4
5.060	4.980	THE HOUSING BK.	15.2	2.80	50	202500	1015459	5.04	5.10	5.00	5.10	-0.04	5.089	0.14	4
2.450	2.380	JOR. FINANCIAL BANK	11.6	0.00	29	16475	54776	2.39	2.25	2.28	2.28	-0.01	2.325	0.16	3
4.100	3.980	JOR. GULF BANK	6.7	8.84	10	9075	7159	4.00	3.98	3.98	3.98	-0.01	3.970	0.045	3
3.970	3.780	ARAB JOR. INV. CO.	19.1	0.00	3	15750	62528	3.85	3.97	3.97	3.97	-0.12	3.970	0.158	1
2.680	2.430	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.4	3.38	30	13320	47711	2.61	2.61	2.55	2.55	-0.06	2.593	0.091	4
3.720	3.200	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	148.3	0.00	3	25000	30000	1.21	1.20	1.20	1.20	-0.01	1.200	0.142	1
3.900	2.760	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	24.5	0.00	6	5450	20519	2.83	2.85	2.81	2.81	-0.02	2.820	0.055	4
1.940	1.880	INDY. AL-KAL (BRIEFA)	16.12	0.00	28	4050	4279	1.90	1.93	1.87	1.93	-0.02	1.903	0.242	2
BANKS SECTOR															
328 525246 2173223 INDEX NUMBER : 226.70															
CHANGE : 0.246															
1.920	1.870	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.5	7.69	3	2750	5242	1.87	1.95	1.86	1.95	-0.08	1.904	0.125	2
2.150	2.090	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.6	4.55	10	44912	142806	2.15	2.20	2.20	2.20	-0.05	2.200	0.246	1
INSURANCE SECTOR															
12 67662 140048 INDEX NUMBER : 116.92															
CHANGE : 0.68X															
1.950	1.820	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	95	84292	159223	1.80	1.90	1.80	1.89	-0.01	1.889	0.542	4
8.900	8.000	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	11.5	1.28	8	27200	217510	8.00	8.10	7.50	7.50	-0.10	7.997	0.64	3
2.850	3.330	IRBIO ELECTRICITY	19.7	3.47	7	2900	9433	3.40	3.48	3.31	3.31	-0.17	3.310	0.97	3
3.300	3.200	BIDR. MINERALS	14.2	4.88	2	104	333	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	-0.01	3.200	0.09	1
7.000	7.000	VEHICLES, OWNERS FED.	7.8	4.93	1	3500	17750	7.00	7.10	7.10	7.10	-0.10	7.100	0.17	1
4.100	4.000	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	12.2	5.00	1	1100	4400	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	-0.01	4.000	0.13	1
3.600	2.470	SHIPPING LINES	14.5	5.22	3	1100	2749	3.55	3.50	2.49	2.49	-0.06	2.499	0.16	1
1.200	1.220	NATL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	5	1150	1567	1.23	1.20	1.18	1.18	-0.04	1.189	0.03	3
0.930	0.910	REAL ESTATE INV.	13.8	6.52	3	181	164	0.91	0.93	0.90	0.92	-0.01	0.904	0.04	1
9.900	7.750	ALBA T	15.1	5.95	7	2546	23236	8.90	9.75	8.41	8.41	-0.49	8.730	0.127	2
1.190	1.120	JOR. JIPES HOTELS	10.1	0.00	21	17900	32476	1.25	1.33	1.32	1.32	-0.02	1.312	0.251	2
3.900	3.520	ARAB INTL. INV. COUC.	9.5	0.00	7	6500	23999	3.70	3.70	3.63	3.63	-0.10	3.692	0.04	2
0.980	0.900	JAPKA EDUCATION	-	0.00	5	3650	3403	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	-0.01	0.932	0.01	3
1.780	1.720	UNIFIED CO.	8.2	6.22	10	36750	44797	1.73	1.74	1.73	1.74	-0.01	1.749	0.35	2
0.810	0.740	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	2	600	455	0.78	0.76	0.75	0.75	-0.03	0.758	0.12	3
SERVICES SECTOR															
105 178473 533468 INDEX NUMBER : 110.02															
CHANGE : 1.53X															
3.460	3.030	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.7	3.57	176	172759	534078	3.12	3.15	3.05	3.00	-0.04	3.091	0.286	4
5.550	5.400	JOR. PROPRIETARY MINES	9.7	2.84	11	100150	353033	3.60	3.55	3.50	3.50	-0.10	3.525	0.28	4
6.150	6.000	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.9	3.09	31	85000	531210	6.15	6.25	6.15	6.25	-0.10	6.250	0.07	2
11.160	10.800	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.7	8.09	23	3725	40784	10.80	11.00	10.40	11.00	-0.10	10.949	0.58	4
1.000	1.050	MOULDS INDUSTRIES	9.2	9.42	1	3000	3180	1.05	1.06	1.06	1.06	-0.01	1.040	0.08	1
1.600	1.340	INDUSTRIAL COMM. CO.	-	0.00	7	3070	3787	1.34	1.37	1.32	1.37	-0.03	1.341	0.042	3
1.600	6.600	JOR. WORSTED MILLS	10.7	3.01	3	1000	4450	4.70	4.69	6.69	6.69	-0.05	6.650	0.35	2
4.500	4.400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.5	4.77	54	36893	154907	4.34	4.35	4.19	4.19	-0.05	4.199	0.40	4
5.000	4.600	JOR. CEMENT IND.	4.7	4.35	3	4400	30430	4.60	4.75	4.60	4.60	-0.07	4.641	0.74	2
2.400	2.700	JOHNSON DAIRY	9.3	1.86	1	1000	3760	2.70	2.76	2.74	2.74	-0.01	2.740	0.07	1
1.240	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	14.5	6.84	15	4750	5463	1.17	1.17	1.13	1.13	-0.07	1.150	0.44	4
1.600	6.500	ARAB CHEM. DISTRC.	20.0	4.40	2	300	1956	6.50	6.53	6.53	6.53	-0.02	6.520	0.05	1
1.400	1.130	RAFIA INDUSTRIES	-	0.00	47	80650	127011	1.39	1.42	1.30	1.40	-0.01	1.401	0.965	3
5.550	5.600	IND. ALUMINA DIV. INV.	13.8	4.42	4	1200	7345	5.67	5.65	5.65	5.65	-0.02	5.650	0.22	1
2.500	2.370	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.33	6	2275	6239	2.46	2.46	2.42	2.42	-0.04	2.443	0.62	3
0.520	0.470	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	13	5447	2614	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	-0.01	0.480	0.165	4
0.900	0.800	ARAB PAPER CO. TRD.	25.1	0.00	2	1250	1025	0.83	0.82	0.82	0.82	-0.01	0.820	0.36	1
0.790	0.710	NATIONAL STEEL INTL.	-	0.00	15	3650	3505	0.73	0.73	0.70	0.70	-0.03	0.708	0.092	3
0.580	0.530	NATIONAL INDS.	-	0.00	0	3100	1752	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	-0.01	0.565	0.052	3
0.570	0.530	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	17	5700	3010	0.54	0.53	0.53	0.53	-0.02	0.528	0.40	4
4.600	4.600	JOR. CHEM. INDS.	17.8	4.48	1	1350	5463	4.40	4.37	4.37	4.37	-0.23	4.370	0.092	1
0.670	0.650	JOR. ROPEMOUL INDS.	-	0.00	1	350	155	0.65	0.62	0.62	0.62	-0.02	0.620	0.08	1
1.420	1.420	UNIV. CHEM. INDS.	13.0	4.94	2	200	380	1.42	1.44	1.44	1.44	-0.01	1.440	0.13	1
2.200	2.200	NATL. CABLE MFG. INAC	31.8	0.00	3	800	5263	2.20	2.09	1.98	1.98	-0.22	1.995	0.14	3
0.690	0.630	JOR. SULPHO-PROD.	0.00	0.00	43	39350	24500	0.64	0.63	0.62	0.62	-0.02	0.624	0.74	4
1.350	1.290	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.3	5.47	14	5950	7622	1.29	1.29	1.27	1.28	-0.01	1.281	0.13	4
0.660	0.600	KAMMER INVEST.	63.1	0.00	7	1300	020	0.60	0.65	0.62	0.64	-0.06	0.621	0.05	3
1.260	1.210	UNIV. CHEM. INDS.	448.1	1.22	41	75000	91039	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.31	-0.04	1.284	1.500	4
0.910	0.850	JOR. INDS. RESEARCH	11.2	14.90	24	18278	18446	0.85	0.88	0.82	0.84	-0.02	0.870	0.328	4
1.540	1.520	NATL. CIGARETTE	14.2	4.44	5	900	1254	1.53	1.52	1.50	1.52	-0.02	1.502	0.22	2
0.890	0.850	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	16.1	0.00	51	82650	72951	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.88	-0.02	0.884	2.046	4
2.450	1.440	EX. KAT READY WEAR	40.7	0.00	4	2020	2929	1.45	1.45	1.44	1.44	-0.01	1.443	0.27	1
1.240	1.160	IND. TOBACCO	6.7	0.00	24	31184	40901	1.22	1.22	1.14	1.20	-0.03	1.232	0.32	4
1.170	1.110	UNION CH. A. VEG.	49.1	0.00	2	238	256	1.11	1.08	1.08	1.08	-0.03	1.074	0.06	1
0.760	0.740	JWEL. STEEL	6.4	6.58	13	32741	25642	0.74	0.76	0.76	0.76	-0.01	0.760	0.225	3
0.620	0.580	KID. EAST COMPLEX	7.3	16.95	35	34150	19995	0.59	0.60	0.57	0.59	-0.01	0.586	0.155	4
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR															
719 859000 2120815 INDEX NUMBER : 115.80															
CHANGE : 0.08X															
GRAND TOTAL															
1245 1460481 4975555 INDEX NUMBER : 170.56															
CHANGE : 0.25X															
TELEPHONE: 407171 / 407179															
PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (01/11/1997 - 05/11/1997)															
WEEKLY REPORT															
DURING THE LAST 2 WEEKS															
HIGH <th>LOW</th> <th>COMPANY NAME</th> <th>P/E</th> <th>DIV</th> <th>NO. OF CONTRACTS</th> <th>NO. OF SHARES</th> <th>VALUE TRADED JO</th> <th>OPENING PRICE</th> <th>HIGH</th> <th>LOW</th> <th>CLOSING PRICE</th> <th>CHANGE</th> <th>AVERAGE MARKET PRICE</th> <th>TURNOVER MARKET SHARES</th> <th>NO. OF TRADING DAYS</th>	LOW	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER MARKET SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
0.360	0.310	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	-	0.00	6	17100	5473	0.31	0.32	0.32	0.32	-0.01	0.320	0.518	2
0.410	0.380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	13	37250	14350	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	-0.01	0.385	0.887	4
0.400	0.400	ARAB P.M. INVEST.	-	0.00	18	66550	10700	0.40	0.41	0.40	0.41	-0.01	0.402	0.444	3
0.400	0.400	UNIV. INV. SOC.	-	0.00	16	24041	6889	0.40	0.40	0.37	0.37	-0.02	0.370	0.110	4
1.220	1.160	ARAB FOR INVESTMENT	78.7	0.00	4	20400	24872	1.22	1.22	1.14	1.20	-0.03	1.219	0.51	4
0.070	0.050	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	389.3	0.00	9	40350	51820	0.40	0.40	0.35	0.37	-0.01	0.374	0.07	1
0.410	0.350	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	-	0.00	10	100000	100000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-0.01	1.000	1.000	1
0.410	0.390	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	38.2	0.00	20	21550	7300	0.35	0.35	0.31	0.34	-0.01	0.334	0.435	2
0.240	0.210	JOR. INDS. HATCHILL-JEWEL	-	0.00	11	9750	1750	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	-0.01	0.200	0.15	3
0.370	0.370	NATL. TEXTILE	-	0.00	19	9750	3666	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	-0.02	0.355		



## Senna prosecution sums up

IMOLA (AFP) — State prosecutor Maurizio Passarini began his summing up of the case against Frank Williams and five other men here on Friday, as the trial continued over the death of Ayrton Senna.

Williams, his technical director Patrick Head and the Formula One team's chief designer at the time, Adrian Newey, all face manslaughter charges — along with three race officials at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix.

The case against the six is of alleged negligence, over the car and the circuit respectively, and all face a maximum sentence of five years in jail. A verdict is expected around mid-December.

Passarini claims that Senna's steering column failed as he approached the high-speed Tamborello bend, causing him to crash into a concrete wall. He has indicted race officials over alleged failings in the track.

All six of the accused have denied the charges. The evidence showed Senna's car suffered from over-steer, as he approached Tamborello. The Brazilian eased up on the accelerator and then took his foot off the pedal

completely, without changing to his line.

"This failure to change his trajectory is very surprising," Passarini said, before adding: "The conclusion is that he was unable to because the steering column had failed."

The prosecutor then called up drawings of the changes made to Senna's column in order to shorten it; namely that a 18mm diameter section was inserted into the 22mm original column.

The prosecution's drawings indicated metal fatigue where the new section was connected with the rest of the column.

Passarini later produced further video evidence from the onboard camera, which compared the position of a button on Senna's steering wheel during previous laps, and that of his final lap as he approached Tamborello.

The pictures showed the button move out of view in the final lap, indicating, Passarini argued, that something was wrong with the steering column.

## Classic favourite Skip Away in the spotlight

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Classic favourite Skip Away assumes the spotlight Saturday in a Breeders' Cup bet set by injuries, the most recent the career-ending broken leg suffered by Singpiel on Thursday.

The four-year-old gray, trained by Sonny Hine and owned by his wife, Carolyn, was an impressive winner of the Jockey Club Gold Cup in October. In the ome and a quarter mile Classic, the showpiece of the seven-race Breeders' Cup card, he'll likely be vying for Horse of the Year honours with three-year-old Touch Gold, who denied Silver Charm the U.S. Triple Crown with a victory in the Belmont Stakes.

Two other three-year-old late bloomers are entered: Deputy Commander, winner of the Travers Stakes and the Super Derby, and Behrens, who defeated Touch Gold in the Pegasus.

But injuries have shadowed the buildup to the 1997 Breeders' Cup.

Of the 94 horses pre-entred, only 76 were left on Thursday.

No less than five contenders have been sidelined in less than a week. Singpiel, the all-time leading money winner in British racing, with career earnings of \$5,952,825, suffered a condylar fracture of the right foreleg during a morning gallop on Thursday.



"Touch Gold" gets a morning bath from his stable hand November 6 at Hollywood Park, site of the Breeders' Cup. The horse is entered in the \$4 million Breeders' Cup Classic, and will meet fellow Horse of the Year candidate "Skip Away" for the first time (Reuters photo)

Instead of bidding to become the first British entry to win a Breeders' Cup race in California, Singpiel is slated for surgery this weekend.

defections, there's still some great horses out there."

Baffert said he saw no real pattern to the injuries. "It's the end of the year."

himself in his stall. Other possible runners, Honor Glide and Japanese entry Taiki Blizzard both opted for the Classic. That leaves Spinning

## BREEDERS CUP PREVIEW

Barring complications, the Sheikh Mohammed-owned five-year-old will then be retired to stud.

He had been the favourite in the \$2 million Turf, a role that now falls to Chief Bearhart or perhaps French entry Rajpoute.

The Classic had already lost Silver Charm, winner of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, as well as the highly regarded Godolmen and just last week's Formal Gold.

Veteran trainer Bob Baffert said the races still offered plenty of quality.

"The Classic, that's one of those races that a lot of people are going to be coming up to the window and scratching their heads," he said. "Even though there's been a lot of

these horses have been running hard," he said. "Also, there's so many horses involved in the Breeders' Cup. I think it's just wear and tear."

The Distaff lost top contender Twice the Vice, who had to be retired after breaking his left front cannon bone.

But the ome and one eighth-mile Distaff is still packed with talent. John Kimmel has guided four-year-old Hidden Lake to the top of the filly and mare division with four straight graded stakes victories in New York.

Her challengers will include defending Distaff champion Jewell Princess. The withdrawals have not spared the Mile, with top contender Anet missing the race after hurting

World, winner of three of four starts this year as the favourite. Cash Asmussoo will be aboard looking for his first trip to the winners' circle in 22 Breeders' Cup races.

London-born, Kentucky-based trainer Patrick Byrne saddles the favourites in the remaining three races, the Juvenile, the Juvenile Fillies and the Sprint.

Favorite Trick will be going for his eighth win in his eighth start as a two-year-old in the mile and one-eighth Juvenile.

Byrne's Countess Diana is the strong favourite in the Juvenile Fillies, and Richter Scale is favoured in the six-furlong Sprint.

Tale of the Cat, expected to handle Richter Scale, was withdrawn due to injury on Tuesday.

## Brewers officially shift to National League

MILWAUKEE (AFP) — Pitchers will hit in Milwaukee once again, as one of baseball's worst-kept secrets finally became official on Thursday.

The Milwaukee Brewers won approval from Major League Baseball's ruling executive council and shifted to the National League under a limited realignment plan. The newest members of the NL Central Division are the first team to transfer leagues.

The move, essentially agreed upon before the end of the season, became official Thursday afternoon.

Brewers owner and acting commissioner Bud Selig, who also is chairman of the executive council, made the announcement.

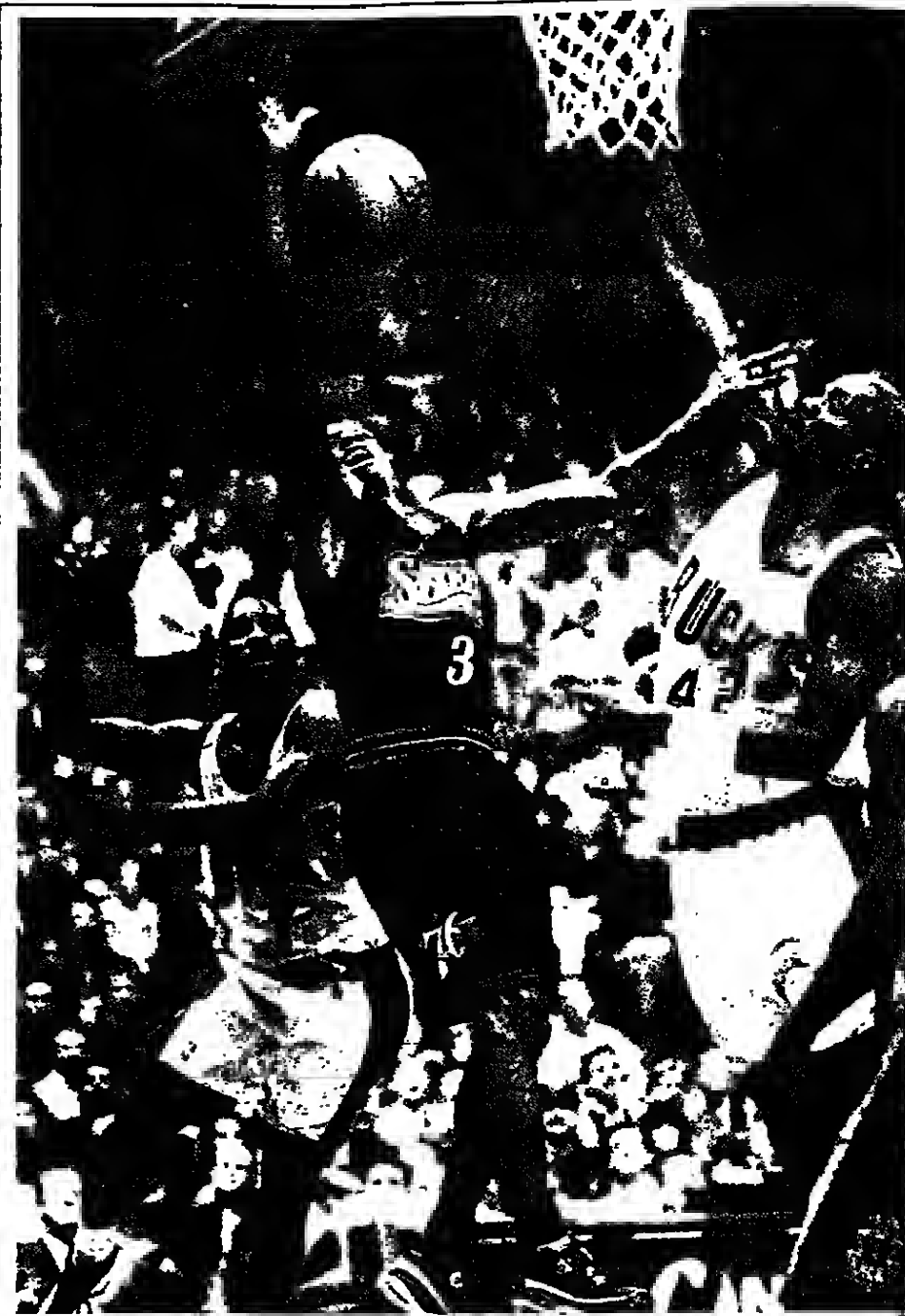
Phase One of the realignment plan also moved the Detroit Tigers from the American League East to the Central and placed the expansion Tampa Bay Devil Rays in the AL East. The shift by the Brewers creates a 16-team National League and a 14-team American League, and avoids the need for continuous interleague play.

Each league will continue to have three divisions.

The Kansas City Royals were given the first option at switching leagues, but, leaving the decision to an eager Brewers franchise. Selig grew up rooting for the National League's Milwaukee Braves, who moved to Atlanta in 1966.

Switching leagues is perceived as beneficial to the Brewers, who will have instant rivalries with the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Central. In 1953, their first season in Milwaukee following a move from Boston, the Braves set a then-NL attendance record.

The Brewers are now grouped with the Cubs, Cardinals, Houston Astros, Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals. The AL Central includes the Tigers, Royals, Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians and Minnesota Twins. The East now consists of Tampa Bay, the New York Yankees, Baltimore Orioles, Toronto Blue Jays and Boston Red Sox.



Philadelphia 76ers guard Allen Iverson (C) reaches for an offensive rebound while Milwaukee Bucks forward Tyrone Hill (R) and guard Terrell Brandon in the first quarter at the Bradley Centre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Milwaukee won 100-93 (Reuters photo)

## New quarterbacks ignite New York teams

NEW YORK (AFP) — Glenn Foley and Danny Kanell were backup quarterbacks two months ago when the National Football League season began.

Now they are the toast of Broadway, the new starting quarterbacks for New York's division-leading American football teams entering away games this Sunday.

Foley will guide the Jets against Miami with New York (6-3) owning a one-game AFC East division lead on the host Dolphins as well as New England and Buffalo, who also meet Sunday.

Kanell, who has guided the Giants to five triumphs in a row, takes the NFC East leaders to Tennessee. The Giants (6-3) are one game ahead of Washington and two above Dallas and Philadelphia.

Foley has made Neil O'Donnell the richest reserve in the sport. Jets coach Bill Parcells made the decision this week to bench the man with the five-year, \$25 million contract in favor of Foley.

"It's not an easy thing but you've got to do what you think is best at this moment," Parcells said. "The team responded better to Foley."

Foley was promoted after sparking the Jets to back-to-back victories. Last week he drove New York 60 yards in 12 plays to set up an over-time field goal that beat Baltimore.

Before that he replaced O'Donnell against New England, the team Parcells coached to the Super Bowl in January, and connected on 17 of 23 passes for 200 yards, rallying the Jets to a 24-19 victory.

"I looked at some opportunities presented to both guys," Parcells said. "It's very lopsided percentage-wise in what has transpired."

O'Donnell has made four touchdowns in his past 37 possessions. Foley has generated three in only seven attempts.

"I'm excited," Foley said. "This is what I have been waiting for, a chance to play on a first-place team."

O'Donnell's career has crashed since he left Pittsburgh after a Super Bowl season for big money from the once-wealthy Jets.

"I don't know what to think," O'Donnell said. "I want to play. I don't want to be a backup. I still believe I am a big leader of this football team."

Parcells said the switch might not be permanent, adding, "I'm not worried about long-term effects on

this team. Things change in this game. Two or three weeks can be a lifetime."

The Giants are unbeaten since Kanell replaced Dave Brown, who remains sidelined by a torn chest muscle.

"If I were coach I would do the same thing," Brown said. "No sense changing when the team is on a five-game win streak."

Kanell has completed 58 of 109 passes for three touchdowns. When asked why he has made Kanell the starter even if Brown were healthy, Giants coach Jim Fassel said, "Five wins. He has been very efficient."

"I'll keep trying to do things the same way I have been," Kanell said.

Division foe Dallas needs to avoid that. The Cowboys, denying reports that coach Barry Switzer's job is in jeopardy, play host to Arizona in need of a victory to reach 5-5.

The Cowboys have a losing record for the first time since 1990 and have never reached the playoffs or managed a winning season with a record so bad so late in the season.

The NFL's winningest clubs, Denver and San Francisco, enter the week 8-1. Denver will play host to Carolina. The 49ers travel to Philadelphia on Monday night.

Sunday's other games find Chicago at Minnesota, Cincinnati at winless Indianapolis, Detroit at Washington, St. Louis at Green Bay, Tampa Bay at Atlanta, New Orleans at Oakland, New England at Buffalo, Seattle at San Diego, Kansas City at Jacksonville and Baltimore at Pittsburgh.

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The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) announces the selling of used surplus items consisting of Computers, Printers, Office Equipment and Office Furniture.  
Interested buyers are kindly requested to call at the Purchase & Transportation Unit of ESCWA (room 302), located in Shmeisani, Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street, by not later than the closing of business (2 p.m.) on Thursday, 13 November 1997, to obtain the Sale Bid documents and the list of items available for sale and to arrange for the inspection of the items at ESCWA Central Stores. The deadline for submission of offers shall be Wednesday, 19 November 1997, 12:00 hours noon.

**GOREN BRIDGE**  
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIAH 1995CH  
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ  
Q. 1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
AA53 01022 0K963 AA7  
The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1D Pass 1A Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
AA764 0K 0AK55 AAQ66  
What is your opening bid?  
Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
AAK10642 0K983 082 AA  
The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1A Pass 20 Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q. 4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
AA1097 0K 0K73 4KQJ1095  
The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
Pass Pass 10 Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
AKQ9952 07 01096 473  
The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
2A Pass 3NT Pass  
What action do you take?  
Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
AAQ1063 0AKJ10 0A99 49  
The bidding has proceeded:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
2A Pass 4A Pass  
What do you bid now?

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PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	
Jane Reno & Patrick Broyl ... in <b>THE JAGUAR</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	007 <b>GOLDEN EYE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Van Damme... in <b>DOUBLE TEAM</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" Brad Pitt ... in <b>SEVEN</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" <b>SLEEP WALKERS</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only	ABDOUN Walt Disney's <b>HERCULES</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30 <b>CON AIR</b> Shows: 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN <b>SCREAM</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	

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# Shishani wins speed test but Daoud clinches overall championship

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While Aidmer Shishani won Friday's speed test Ahmad Daoud was crowned 1997 overall speed test champion in spite of taking second place in the Pepsi Speed Test.

Yanai Qomog came third and captured second place in the overall championship followed by Yasser Jarrar in the third place

ending the season's speed tests. Aidmer Shishani took the first place by storm in his Opel Ascona clocking 02:51.44 and surprised Qomog and Daoud who were relaxed in taking the lead in the first round.

Ahmad Daoud followed in his Renault 5 GT Turbo with a time of 02:53.12 in second place and Yanai Qomog in a Renault 5 Turbo came third clocking 02:54.37.

Twenty seven of the best drivers

in the Kingdom registered for the race but only 22 took part in event organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Only three ladies took part in the event in which Abber Baikh's reigned over her colleagues and took first place.

Maya Mufti left the race before the end of the second round and Sawsan Barikhi in her Hyundai Accent clocked 03:41.36.

"We are satisfied that everything

went well in the event," RACJ spokesman Bader Rasheed told the Jordan Times.

"RACJ still has two major events to go," he added. "A rally tour and 4X4 Rally," he added.

The 9th speed test for the 1997 season was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein who closely watched the event and handed trophies to participants at RACJ headquarters.



Robert Vagner (L) of Slavia Prague pushes the ball past Nice's Frederic Martin (R) during the second round, second leg match of their Cup Winners' Cup match in Prague (Reuters photo)

## Al Orthodoxy's ladies win soccer tournament

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The ladies of Al Orthodoxy soccer team were crowned champions of the first outdoor Women's Soccer Tournament after crushing the British Embassy team 5-1 Friday.

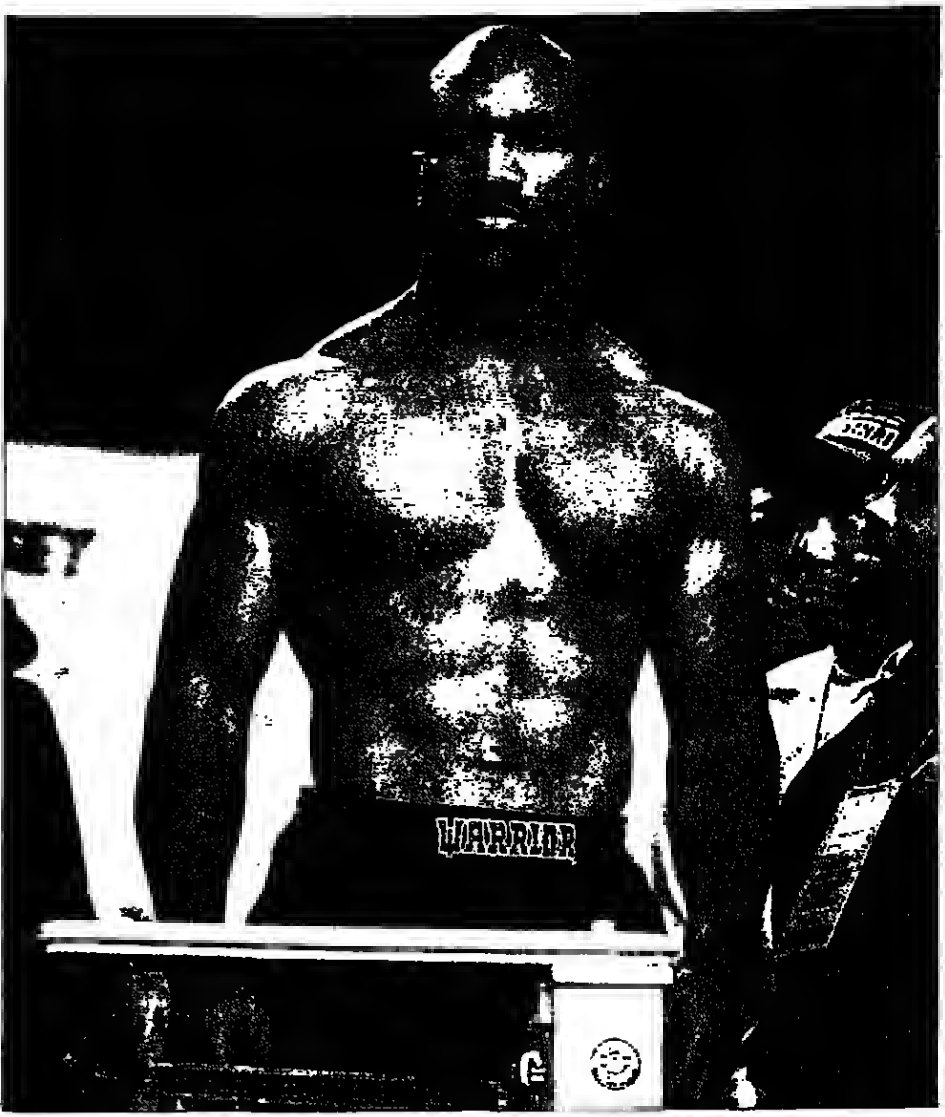
Al Orthodoxy's Alia Tufaha was the star of the match with a hat-trick followed by another two goals from Hana Abu Rous and Dina Abu Zeid.

The British Embassy had reached the final match after beating the American School 2-0 while Al Orthodoxy overcame Arab Al Yawm 1-0 in the semi-finals from an own goal by Maha Awwad which landed between her team's goal posts.

The three-day event organised by Arab Al Yawm daily newspaper and the British Embassy included teams from the British Embassy, Al Orthodoxy Club, the American School, Al Bayan School, Arab Al Yawm and the Unified Zarga Schools team.

The event was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and HRH Princess Rania.

Trophies and prizes were handed to the winning team at the British Embassy Club in Abdoun.



WBA heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield stands on the scales, during the weigh-in for his World title fight, against IBF heavyweight champion Michael Moorer. Holyfield and Moorer will fight November 8 to unify their two titles (Reuters photo)

## Moorer outweighs Holyfield for heavyweight showdown

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Michael Moorer weighed in nine pounds (4 kilograms) heavier than Evander Holyfield for their heavyweight boxing championship showdown here Saturday.

At the weighing-in ceremony Thursday, International Boxing Federation champion Moorer weighed 223 pounds (101 kg) while World Boxing Association ruler Holyfield was at 214 pounds (97 kg).

Holyfield weighed 214

when he lost a split decision to Moorer here 3 1/2 years ago. Moorer was at 214 for that fight as well but sees no great harm in being heavier.

"I look at it as nine pounds of muscle," Moorer said. "I'm ready for the fight. I'm not worried about it."

Moorer weighed 212 in his most recent fight, a March defence against Vaughn Bean, and complained he was too light after too much training.

"A lot of people make

big things about weight," Moorer said. "When you get older, it's harder for the weight to come off. I have done everything I was supposed to do."

Holyfield, who weighed 218 when he won by disqualification when Tyson hit his ears last June, said the sizes matter little.

"Most of the time weight doesn't make the difference, unless it makes a difference to the fighter who has to carry it," he said.

## European Cup Winners Cup Chelsea, Vicenza in quarters

LONDON (AFP) — Chelsea thrashed Norwegian Tromso 7-1 on Thursday night for a 9-4 aggregate win to put them into the quarter-finals as 2-1 favourites for the European Cup Winners Cup.

A Luca Vialli bat-trick, two goals from Dan Petrescu and one a piece from Gianfranco Zola and Franck Leboeuf complete crushed the Norwegians who scored through Bjorn Johansen six minutes before the break.

Rund Gullit's cosmopolitan all-star team went into the game needing to wipe out the embarrassment of their 3-2 first-leg deficit in farcical conditions in Norway two weeks ago. But their entry into the quarter-finals next March looked beyond all reasonable doubt even before Petrescu and Vialli both scored in the opening 23 minutes. The Norwegians had only muscular commitment and dogged defending to offer in response — until Johansen's stunning 25-yard drive exploded past goalkeeper Ed De Goey to rudely interrupt Chelsea's complete dominance in the 37th minute.

Even then, it took only five minutes more for Zola to restore proof of the huge gap between the two sides, after Roberto Di Matteo was pulled down on the edge of the box by a foul which brought Steinar Nilsen a booking.

Zola curled and dipped a magnificent freekick over the Tromso wall for a spectacular third Chelsea goal.

Chelsea made a surpris-

ingly sluggish start to the second half, but the award of a penalty and the consequent sending-off of Tromso's Jonny Hansen put them back in total command in the 54th minute.

Hansen seemed hard done by when Ukrainian referee Vasily Melnichuk decided he had deliberately handled Wise's shot from a Petrescu pass and the yellow card was quickly followed by the red after the defender complained too vociferously.

Leboeuf deepened Tromso's agony by comfortably converting the spotkick. Six minutes later Chelsea had a nap hand of goals for a 7-4 aggregate lead when Tromso, amazingly committing too many men forward, were left completely exposed at the back, with Petrescu and Vialli both running free.

Grenseners bravely came off his line to block the Romanian's shot, but Vialli joyfully followed up the rebound and slid it into an empty net for his second goal of the match and his fourth in the tie.

Tromso were determined to go down with all guns firing and they nearly pulled a goal back when Berntsen escaped the marking on the right flank of Chelsea's under-employed defence, but

drove his cross-shot beyond the far post. Vialli completed his hat-trick with an unstoppable header from Wise's right-wing cross to make it 6-1 on the night in the 71st minute and Petrescu hit Chelsea's seventh four minutes from time. VfB Stuttgart kept up Germany's presence in the competition, but they lost 4-2 at home to Belgium side Ekeren. However Stuttgart had to play the second half with 10 men when Switzerland's Murat Yakin was sent off just before half-time.

Vicenza, just seventh in the Italian table, also earned their last eight ticket after beating Chakthor Donetsk of the Ukraine 2-1, and 5-2 on aggregate.

Second division Nice drew 1-1 in Slavia Prague, but lost on away goals following Slavia's 2-2 draw on French soil. However the Riviera club could be satisfied with their performance and were within 15 minutes of making the quarter-finals. Franck Vandecasteele hit a magnificent volley in the 75th minute to put Nice ahead and give them hope. But five minutes later, Pavel Labant headed home to end their dream.

## Stockholm Open Rafter, Rusedski win

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Tim Henman saved a match point with an ace but couldn't keep up the heroics to suffer a 6-3, 6-3 defeat in the quarter-finals of the \$825,000 Stockholm Open Friday by top seed Patrick Rafter.

But British interest was kept up by No. 2 seed Greg Rusedski, who advanced on a walkover against unseeded Swede Magnus Larsson, who withdrew through illness before the start.

The irony of the situation was evident as Rusedski had spent two days in bed this week fighting off a virus after winning an opening-round match on Monday at Kungliga Tennishallen. He beat Frenchman Lionel Roux on Thursday in the second round.

"I guess Magnus got the bug that I had," said World No. 5 Rusedski, who will now have an extra day to rest before facing either Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline of France or Dutchman Jan Siemerink, the journeyman who upset Boris Becker on Tuesday night in the second round.

"I'm in shock," said Rusedski, heading to Hanover next week for the ATP World Championship. "I was practicing on a court next to Magnus this morning and everything seemed fine."

"A little later his coach came up to me and said 'well done.' I didn't know why and then he told me that Magnus could not play."

There was no such luck for compatriot Henman, who failed to take advantage of his early chances in his 6-3, 6-3 loss to top seed Patrick Rafter.

The Australian, the man who claimed the U.S. Open title over British No. 1 Rusedski, spent 69 minutes in attacking Henman's game with serve-and-volley brilliance.

The Briton had break points in Rafter's first three service games. "If I had taken my chances, I could have been up 5-0, as it was, I was down 3-2. I created enough opportunities. If you have break point in three games and don't take them, that's the story of the match."

Henman said Rafter, whom he played for the first time, played at a consistently high level.

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## China's missed penalty kills World Cup hopes; Qatar wins

RIYADH (AFP) — A missed penalty by skipper Fan Zhiyi in the 1-1 draw with Saudi Arabia here may have cost China's hopes of reaching the World Cup finals for the first time.

The result from Thursday night's match only aided Iran who are now virtually guaranteed of finishing in the key top two places in Asian Group A. The first side in each of the two Asian groups goes straight into the finals and the second teams go into playoffs.

Fan's weak spot kick five minutes before half-time ruined China's chances of staying in contention in the qualifying battle.

Saudi Arabia, finalists in 1994, went ahead after just

four minutes with the first of the match's two brilliant goals.

Despite the pressure of playing before around 80,000 fanatical Saudi fans, China were back level within 10 minutes.

The first half continued at a furious pace that neither side could possibly keep up. After Fan's missed penalty, Saudi dampened the Chinese attack in the second half and missed

a penalty of their own when Ou saved Moussaad's spot kick after Al Jabir was brought down.

Saudi Arabia are now in second place on 11 points with one match to play. If they lose, China could still draw level with the Saudis if they beat Kuwait next Wednesday, but the Saudi goal difference is far superior.

Group A Standings after Qatar's 2-0 win over Iran Friday							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Iran	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
S. Arabia	7	3	2	2	7	6	11
Qatar	7	3	1	3	5	9	10
Kuwait	7	2	2	3	7	7	8
China	7	2	2	3	10	14	8

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# Netanyahu calls settlement construction a 'non-issue'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Dismissing U.S. calls for a timeout in Jewish settlement construction, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday the growth of the settlements in occupied territories was a "non-issue."

Addressing Jewish-American leaders, Mr. Netanyahu also said he would not suspend construction while the Palestinians, according to him, are building without restrictions in their areas.

The Israeli prime minister's defiant remarks came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators wrapped up a week of U.S.-hosted peace talks in Washington with few tangible results.

The Israelis said some progress was made.

However, the Palestinians said the talks did not move forward on the two key issues — demands that Israel halt settlement expansion and fulfil its U.S.-backed promise to pull back troops in the West Bank in three stages, by mid-1998.

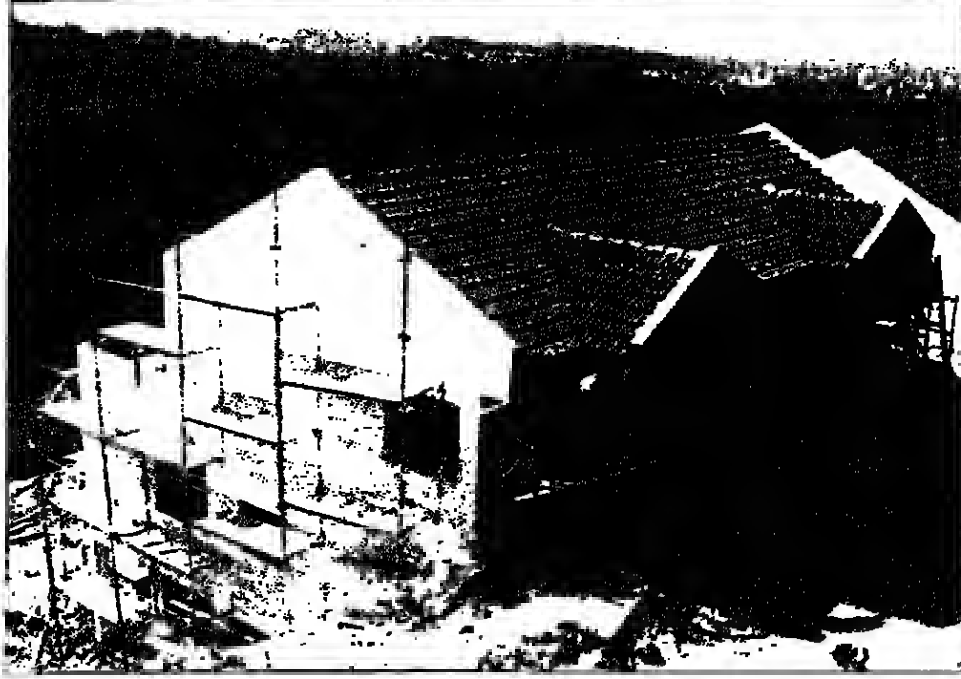
"The delegation went to Washington in order to secure a deal on further redeployment and settlements," Ahmad Abdul Rahman, the secretary general of the Palestinian cabinet told the Associated Press. "This did not happen. So I would not say that there is reason for optimism."

In contrast, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy was upbeat Friday. "The meeting was started under a cloud of pessimism. We had good meetings. We met night and day. There was progress," Mr. Levy told an airport news conference upon his return from Washington.

In justifying his refusal to pull back troops, Mr. Netanyahu has said he could not hand over more land until the Palestinians made more of an effort to rein in Islamists responsible for more than a dozen suicide bombings in Israel since 1994.

Mr. Netanyahu has also given no sign that he would slow the construction of Jewish settlements. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had asked Israel for a timeout in construction for the duration of negotiations.

Asked about settlement



A Palestinian labourer at work on a new settlement unit in the West Bank of Alfei Menashe settlement Friday. Israel will begin building 300 new homes on a hilltop in this West Bank settlement enclave in two weeks, defying U.S. calls for a 'time-out' in building activity in occupied West Bank and Gaza (Reuters photo)

expansion Friday. Mr. Netanyahu told leaders of the Los Angeles Jewish community, "It's a non-issue. It's a political issue. When people say, 'you are preempting a final [peace] settlement by building facts on the ground,' I say that, number one, the facts are not all that big and number two, the Palestinians are all the time building thousands and thousands of illegal housing units."

"I think that the idea of a timeout cannot be a unilateral Israeli exercise," Mr. Netanyahu said.

On Thursday, Israel's housing ministry published a tender for the construction of 72 new settlement units in the West Bank settlement of Alfei Menashe, said Mossi Raz, spokesman of the Peace Now group which monitors settlement construction.

The new units are part of an overall plan, approved in December 1996 by Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, for 300 new units in Alfei Menashe, Mr. Raz said.

Israeli-U.S. relations have become increasingly strained because of disagreement on the settlement issue.

Mr. Netanyahu is leaving for the United States next week to address Jewish American leaders and so far has failed to get an appointment at the White House —

## Settler leader says Israel to build 300 new units

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel will begin building 300 new units in the Jewish settlement of Alfei Menashe in the West Bank in two weeks, a settler leader said Thursday.

The defence ministry, whose approval is needed for all settlement construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, said the project had been authorised a year ago but gave no further details.

The housing ministry

published a tender in an Israeli newspaper on Thursday asking for bids on construction of what appeared to be the first stage of the project — 72 settlement units.

"The homes will be built on a hill as a continuation of [Alfei Menashe]," Shlomo Katan, head of the Jewish District Council in the area, told Reuters. "We have received the permits."

with Mr. Netanyahu on Wednesday in London during a stopover en route to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha, Qatar. Mr. Levy's aides said Friday.

Ms. Albright has also requested to meet with President Arafat on Nov. 14 or Nov. 15 in Geneva, Mr. Abdul Rahman said.

Nine negotiating committees dealing with outstanding issues from peace agreements already signed, such as a safe passage for the Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, will resume their work on Sunday, Mr. Levy said.

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# Netanyahu testifies for second time over assassination fiasco

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu testified Friday for the second time before a commission investigating an attempt by Israeli agents to assassinate a Hamas leader in Amman, the radio said.

Mr. Netanyahu gave the commission details about the procedure — poison application — used in the attempt by two agents of the Mossad intelligence agency to kill Khaled Misha'al in Amman on Sept. 25.

The prime minister, who is ultimately in charge of the Mossad, had already appeared before the commission on Oct. 27 to explain what information he had been given by security officials before giving the green light for the operation.

The commission was created by Mr. Netanyahu to "clarify" what went wrong in the attack, which outraged Jordan, the Arab country that has displayed the warmest ties to Israel, to the point where King Hussein nearly broke off relations with the Jewish state.

Mr. Netanyahu admitted "ultimate responsibility" for ordering the attack, but rejected calls by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres that he resign for the operation, which critics have slammed as ill-planned and politically disastrous.

Mossad chief Danny Yatom testified before the commission several days ago and pinned responsibility for the operation on Mr. Netanyahu.

## Mossad rehearsed Hamas assassination bid on Tel Aviv streets

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli hit squad behind the attempt to murder a Hamas leader in Jordan first practised their exotic assassination mission on the crowded streets of Tel Aviv, the Haaretz newspaper reported Friday.

Two agents of Israel's Mossad intelligence service were captured in September while trying to murder Khaled Misha'al, Hamas political chief, in Amman.

The agents sprayed Mr. Misha'al with a mysterious poison which was supposed to kill him hours or even days later without anyone knowing he had been murdered.

But Israel was forced to provide an antidote to save the Hamas leader's life in order to obtain the release of the Mossad men.

Haaretz said that in the weeks leading up to the assassination attempt, members of the hit team made dozens of mock trial runs on unsuspecting Tel Avivans.

During the exercise, a Mossad agent would stand in the path of a pedestrian and then open a warm can of Coca-Cola, which would spray onto the "victim."

While the agent was apol-

ogising and helping wipe off the Coca-Cola, another assailant would walk behind the target and spray him unnoticed with mock poison, Haaretz said.

The scheme apparently worked well enough on Tel Aviv's inhabitants to convince Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to order the Sept. 25 hit on Mr. Misha'al.

However, when it came time to try the method for real, the two Mossad agents were spotted in action by one of Mr. Misha'al's bodyguards, who pursued and fought with the Israelis until a passing policeman arrested the assailants.

The attempt on Hamas leader Misha'al's life sparked a major crisis in Israel's relations with Jordan and its monarch, King Hussein.

A government panel named by Mr. Netanyahu has been investigating how the decision to attack Mr. Misha'al in Amman was taken and why it failed.

Mr. Netanyahu testified before the commission for the second time Friday in Tel Aviv.

# U.S. sanctions deliver political blow to Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — New United States sanctions are a political blow to the morale of the Sudanese government just when it is trying to bury the hatchet with its enemies.

The sweeping economic sanctions imposed this week hand the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) a symbolic big stick in their first peace talks with the Sudan government in three years.

"The timing of the sanctions is crass," Cyril Townsend, former British parliament member and columnist for Al Hayat newspaper, told Reuters.

"Declaring unilateral sanctions in Washington does give encouragement to [SPLA leader] John Garang."

The timing could only worsen the bargaining power of the government, which analysts say entered the talks already in a state of military weakness and diplomatic isolation.

"I presume that is the motivation behind it," said a diplomat.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday signed the sanctions order for Sudan's human rights record and alleged sponsorship of terrorism, a charge Khartoum's Islamist government denies.

"We believe they are ill-timed. We are now in the process of trying to achieve peace in Sudan," Sudan's deputy parliament speaker Abdulaziz Shido said.

"This aggression by the United States would definitely reflect on the atmosphere in the talks in Nairobi," he told Reuters on Thursday.

The Sudan government appears slightly outnumbered at the talks on ending one of Africa's longest-running civil wars.

A grouping of seven African states is chairing the talks. Sudan says three of them — Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda — support the SPLA. The three neighbouring states deny it.

Sudan is also working to mend long-standing disputes with its northern neighbour Egypt, which accuses Khartoum of a role in an attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in 1995.

"The U.S. talks about us destabilising our neighbours. We think our neighbours destabilise us," Mr. Shido said.

"The sanctions definitely strengthen the rebel position. The rebels would feel Sudan is being targeted and that the U.S. is supporting them. That's why we see them as meaningless for economic ties, which are already very small," he said.

Analysts in Khartoum see the sanctions as politically motivated but dressed up in economic terms, blocking Sudanese assets in the United States and banning loans and bilateral trade.

Sudan has not received loans or grants from the United States at least from the end of 1994, and other bilateral economic ties are minimal. There are no U.S. oil firms active in Sudan and trade is slim.

A State Department spokesman said for some commodities — such as gum Arabic, which is Sudan's only major export to the United States — The U.S. administration would consider issuing licences for "some limited activities important to us."

"Are these sanctions or a joke?" said one Western diplomat.

Washington says the order is aimed at the government and not intended to impede humanitarian work in Sudan.

But American non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Sudan, including Care and International Rescue Committee, will have to ensure they comply to the new regulations.

Aid workers fear the sanctions will scare off non-emergency funding for state institutions, such as for a needy Khartoum orphanage. "Even before the sanctions, there was a tightening of what governments will and will not fund," said one.

The Sudan government said it saw the U.S. move as "giving moral support to the rebels" and vowed to retaliate. Diplomats dismissed the threat, noting Sudan was one of the world's poorest countries.

This week Sudan cut U.S. bank transactions. Mr. Shido said the country could find other ways. "There are American interests in this country. Coke, Pepsi-Cola, Citibank and NGOs," he said.

It is not clear how much foreign support Washington has for the sanctions. Firms from Malaysia, China, Canada and European and Arab states now work in Sudan. Mr. Townsend said he expected the United States to have a run-in with the European union, just as when it put sanctions on Iran in 1995 and then expected non-U.S. firms to comply. "It would like to draw your attention to what happened with Iran," said Mr. Townsend. "There must be the distinct possibility the same thing will happen here."



Case closed for Germany's most famous dog

HUERTH (AFP) — German police are hot on the tracks of the man who killed the country's most celebrated dog — a German shepherd called Ben who rose to fame tracking gangsters. This time, however, poor Ben died while pursuing a cat with no known criminal record. The three-and-a-half-year-old dog sprang to fame for his ability to sniff out drug dealers and crooks. Only last week he chased and caught a car thief who was trying to escape on a bicycle. Sadly for Ben, his last case involved a mere cat ambling along the street when Ben's handler, Wilfried Foerster, was about to put him on a leash. Ben escaped Foerster's grasp and raced across the road after the cat, but ran straight into the path of a car. Police are now hunting the owner of the vehicle, who sped off after the incident.

## Flying pigs prepare for landing in Vietnam

HANOI (R) — A Jumbo jet with 665 breeding pigs on board will fly into Vietnam from Britain on a mission to go forth and multiply. Among those on hand at Hanoi's airport to meet the pigs' Boeing 747 will be British Ambassador David Fall and officials from Vietnam's ministry of agriculture and rural development.

## Chatichai's political star outshines Chuan's

BANGKOK (R) — As Thai politicians jostle for the country's premiership, astrologers appear to have reached a consensus that the stars favour Chatichai Choonhavan to succeed outgoing Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh. Former Premier Chatichai, leader of the Chart Pattana Party, and his Democrat Party counterpart Chuan Leekpai, are the two favourite contenders for the top government job. "I do not know much about political bickering but astrology says Chatichai's star is brighter than Chuan [Mr. Chuan's]," said Pinyo Pongcharoen, secretary of Thailand's International Astrologists Association.

Venezuela shows off beauty talent at summit

MARGARITA ISLAND (R) — Venezuela has hired scores of former beauty pageant contestants to welcome heads of state and delegates attending a summit on this Caribbean island resort. "It's so that people see that we have many other resources apart from oil," said Helen Margaret Teran, 19, as she greeted visitors. Topping the bill was 20-year-old former Miss World Jacqueline Aguilera, who has been named the "face" of the seventh Ibero-American presidential summit which starts on Saturday. Some of the female journalists, however, complained about the sex bias. "I know we're famous for our misses but they could have had some men as well," said one reporter.

Scientists find gene link between limbs, genitals

LONDON (R) — Genes that are responsible for the development of limbs also control the growth of the genital organs, but there is no parallel in size between them, scientists said. In a Science journal report, Denis Duboule and colleagues at the University of Geneva and the University of Michigan said studies on mice showed that the box genes were vital for both sets of external organs. "But the fact that the same genes are involved in both the limbs and the genital organs does not mean you can infer the size of one from the size of the other," he said.

Talks with Palestinian boy confrontation

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# American Jews ask Netanyahu to block Orthodox legislation

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured Jewish American leaders Friday that their Jewishness was not in doubt in Israel despite their bitter showdown with Orthodox rabbis over the validity of their more liberal beliefs.

"All Jews for me are legitimate, all are part of the same people," Mr. Netanyahu told some 400 members of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation in a meeting at an Israeli hotel.

However, many in the audience said they felt that Mr. Netanyahu's message of unity was not enough. Herb Gelfand, president of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation, received an outburst of applause when he turned to Mr. Netanyahu and said: "We ask Israel to oppose the law on conversions."

The dispute over who has the right to carry out conversions in Israel has been at the

core of the confrontation between Orthodox rabbis and the Reform and Conservative streams of Judaism.

Reform and Conservative Jews are predominant in the U.S., but in Israel, religious affairs are controlled by the Orthodox.

Mr. Netanyahu has been under pressure from three Orthodox parties in his coalition to fend off efforts by the Reform and Conservative movements to win recognition in Israel with lawsuits over the right to carry out conversions.

In a countermove, the Orthodox parties have threatened to push through parliament a conversion bill that would formalise the current practice of only allowing Orthodox rabbis to carry out conversions.

Earlier this month, a crisis was averted when the two sides agreed to suspend both the lawsuits and the legislation for three months in hopes

of reaching a compromise.

Mr. Netanyahu urged the Los Angeles Jewish leaders Friday to help his efforts to reach such a compromise. "We are trying to achieve an historic reconciliation."

He said a real change could be made in the country's religious status quo, "but it will take time and requires delicate treatment."

However, Rick Nagler, a 53-year-old clothing manufacturer from the Manhattan Beach district of Los Angeles, said he was not satisfied with Mr. Netanyahu's assurances that the conversion issue could be resolved peacefully.

"I think he should have said that no Jew is in the position to determine what makes another Jew legitimate. I don't think he understands how important [the issue] is in America. If he did be would be taking a stronger position," Mr. Nagler said.

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of reaching a compromise.

# Denktash says his breakaway republic is to stay

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said in remarks published Friday that his self-declared republic is here to stay despite international efforts to reunify the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

"The Greek-Cypriots should stop believing that they can convert the whole of Cyprus into their republic, that they can make us remove the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) forever from the map of Cyprus," Mr. Denktaş told the English-language Turkish Daily News.

He blamed the European Union (EU), which is preparing to formally invite the eastern Mediterranean island's internationally recognised Greek-Cypriot Cyprus government to EU membership talks next year, for escalating tensions in the region also involving Turkey and Greece.

"The EU has completely destroyed the chances for a settlement. Due to the EU policy, the Greek-Cypriots don't and won't make any compromises," he said.

Mr. Denktaş declared the TRNC in 1983, but his breakaway state is recognised only by Ankara which still keeps some 35,000 troops there.

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# Israel warns of possible Abu Nidal attack against its businessmen

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel warned Thursday of possible attacks against its businessmen attending the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Doha, Qatar, particularly by the Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC) led by Abu Nidal.

The Foreign Ministry made the warning in security instructions distributed at a meeting of the Israeli Industrialist Association (IIA) in Tel Aviv to prepare for the

MENA conference in Doha, to be held Nov. 16-18.

The document accuses the FRC, led by Sabri Khalil Banna, known by the nom de guerre Abu Nidal, of being behind an attempt to kidnap the Qatari ambassador to Yemen in Sanaa last week.

The economic conference "is taking place at a time when extremist groups are becoming more and more of a threat, particularly the Abu Nidal group," said the document, a copy of which was

received by Agence France Presse.

"The Abu Nidal group, which committed the kidnapping attempt against the Qatari ambassador to Yemen on October 29, has threatened to target this conference," the document said.

While presenting the paper to businessmen, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official warned there was "serious opposition in the Arab World to this conference and Israeli participation in it."

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